



**Saskatchewan
Executive
Council**

**Communications
Coordination
Unit**

Saskatchewan

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Government of Saskatchewan

Public Opinion Polling and Market Research

from October 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000

Additional copies available from:

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Department/Crown commissioning the work:

Executive Council

Date: **October, 2000**

Supplier: **Doug Fast & Associates,
Saskatoon**

Cost: **\$18,939**

Omnibus
Provincial Public Opinion Survey

Prepared for:

Saskatchewan Executive Council
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Regina, Saskatchewan
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October 2000

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Federal issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include health care, federal taxes, the accumulated debt and jobs and unemployment.
- Provincial issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include health care, provincial taxes, agriculture and jobs and unemployment.
- More than two thirds of residents think the education system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.
- The large majority of Saskatchewan residents think the quality of elementary and secondary education in Saskatchewan is adequate or better.
- The majority of residents think high school students are prepared for entering post-secondary institutions; more than one third think high school students are prepared for entering the workforce.
- More than two thirds of residents think the post-secondary education and skills training system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.
- The majority of Saskatchewan residents think the quality of Saskatchewan's training programs are adequate or better.
- The majority of residents approve of the way Saskatchewan's provincial government is handling the policing of communities.



METHODOLOGY

Doug Fast & Associates was retained by the Government of Saskatchewan to conduct the October 2000 public opinion survey with a representative sample of the Saskatchewan population. The October Omnibus Survey contains questions designed to explore public opinion regarding:

- federal issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- provincial issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- education;
- post-secondary education and skills training; and
- the justice system.

The questions for the survey were provided by Saskatchewan Executive Council and assembled into an interview format by Doug Fast & Associates. The questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure that the general public understood all of the questions being asked in the interview and the information being gathered addressed the public opinion research objectives.

The sample frame for this public opinion research survey was constructed to obtain complete interviews from a random sample of 1,000 households throughout Saskatchewan. To ensure proportionate representation from all areas of Saskatchewan, the province was divided into nine geographic sampling districts. Interview respondents were selected randomly from Saskatchewan telephone directories in each region using standard polling practices to ensure random selection of households and respondents. The sampling frame was also constructed to ensure proportionate representation of other important demographic characteristics evident within the provincial population such as gender, age, occupation, level of education and level of household income. This ensures that the opinions of all the various types of people who reside in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report.

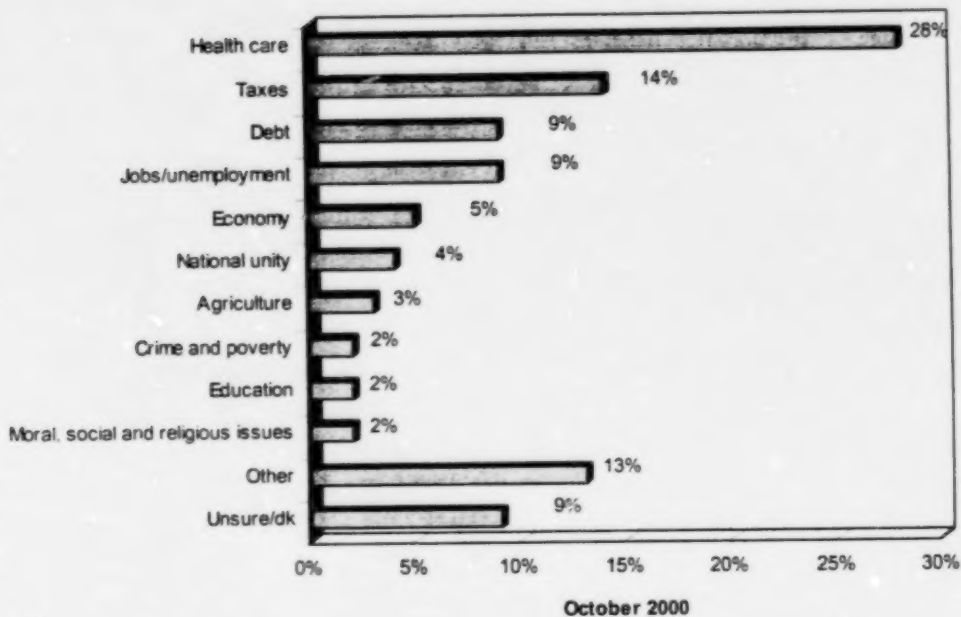
One thousand residents of the province were interviewed over an eight-day period between Tuesday, October 17 and Tuesday, October 24, 2000. Interviews were conducted by telephone at times that were appropriate and convenient for respondents - weekdays between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and weekends between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All interviews were conducted by Doug Fast & Associates' in-house public opinion interviewers using our *Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing* (CATI) call centre.

The Omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points: reliable results with low variability. Frequency charts for all public opinion issues are illustrated in this report.

Doug Fast & Associates designed and implemented programs to facilitate the statistical analysis of data using the industry standard SPSS computer program (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Data checking procedures were utilized at all times to ensure accuracy of the data. In addition, statistical tests were conducted on the demographics to check for reliability and validity of the survey data.

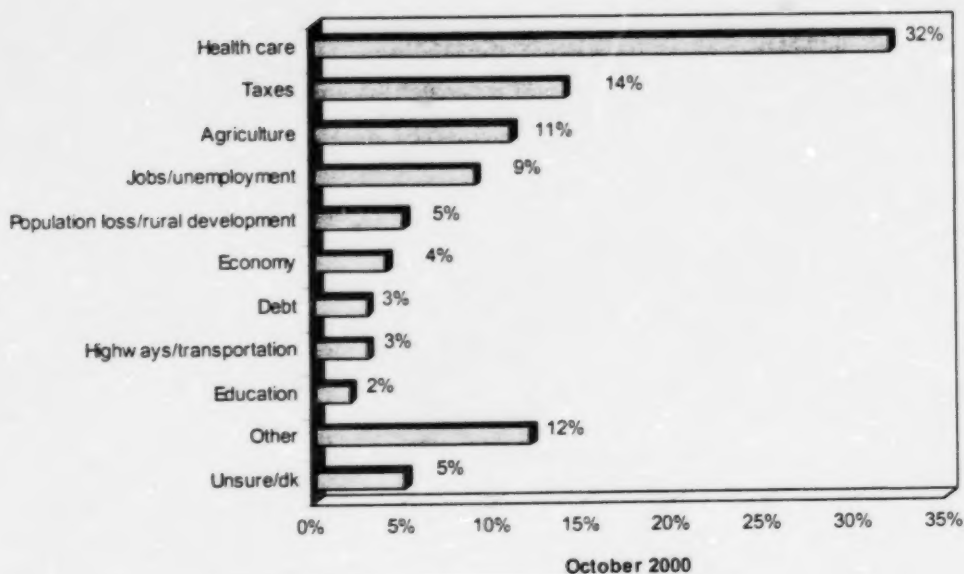
1.0 GENERAL ISSUES

Question 1. In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Canada today?



- According to 28% of Saskatchewan residents, the most important issue facing Canada today is the health care system. Other important issues include federal taxes (14%), the national deficit and accumulated debt (9%), jobs and unemployment (9%) and the economy (5%).
- Approximately 13% of respondents are primarily concerned with 'other' issues such as the federal government in general (4%), children and youth (1%), the environment (1%) and social programs and welfare (1%).

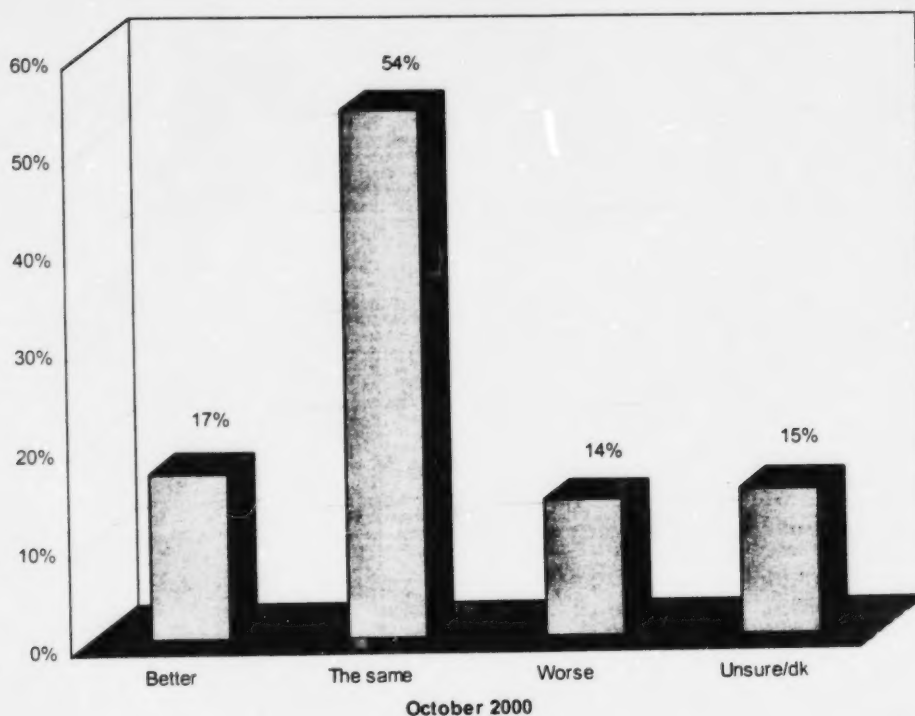
Question 2. What do you think is the most important issue facing the province of Saskatchewan today?



- The most important issue facing the province today, according to 32% of Saskatchewan residents, is health care. Approximately 14% of residents are primarily concerned with provincial taxes, 11% with agriculture, 9% with jobs and unemployment, 5% with population loss and rural development and 4% of respondents are primarily concerned with the provincial economy.
- Included among 'other' important issues identified by 12% of respondents are the provincial government in general (3%), social programs and welfare (1%), Native issues (1%) crime and poverty (1%) and children and youth (1%).

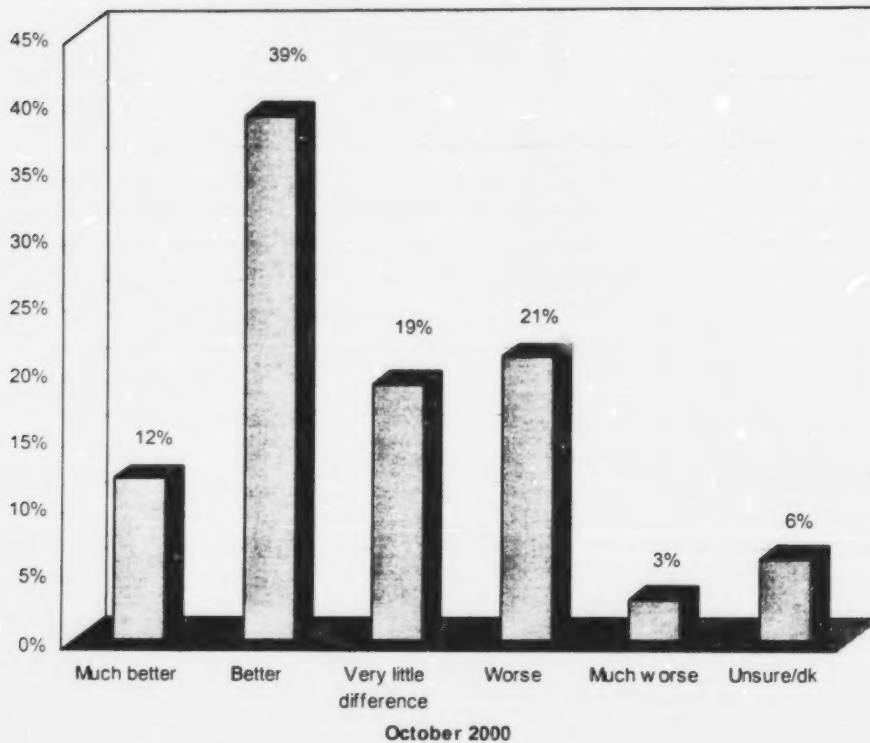
2.0 EDUCATION

Question 3. Compared to the rest of the country, do you think the education system in Saskatchewan is better, the same or worse?



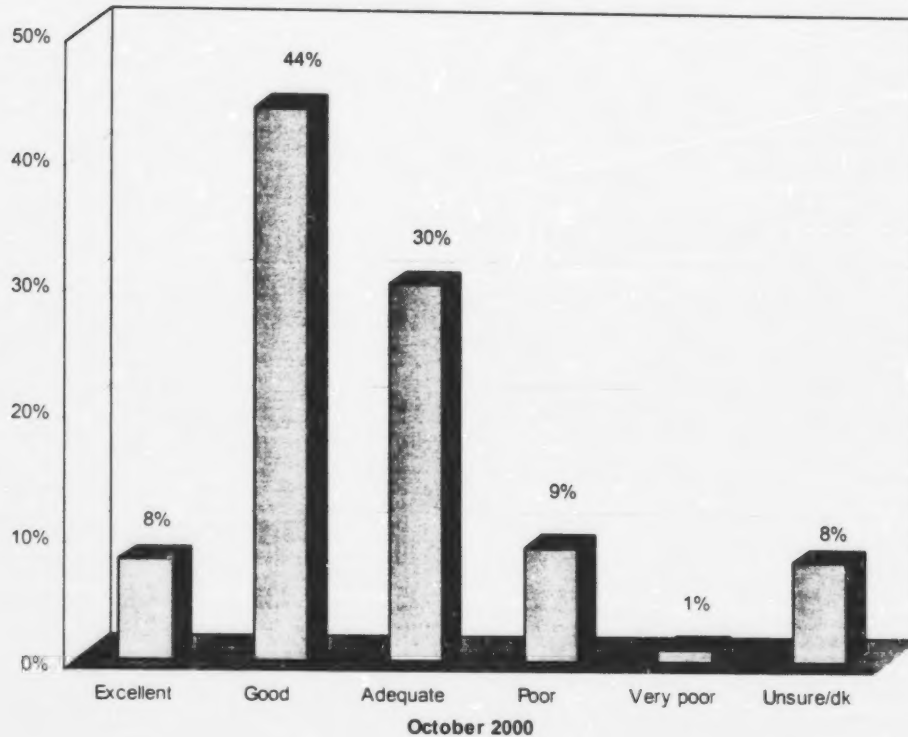
- More than two thirds (71%) of residents think the education system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.

Question 4. When you think of your own school education, do you believe students' education today is much better, better, worse, much worse or very little different compared to yours?



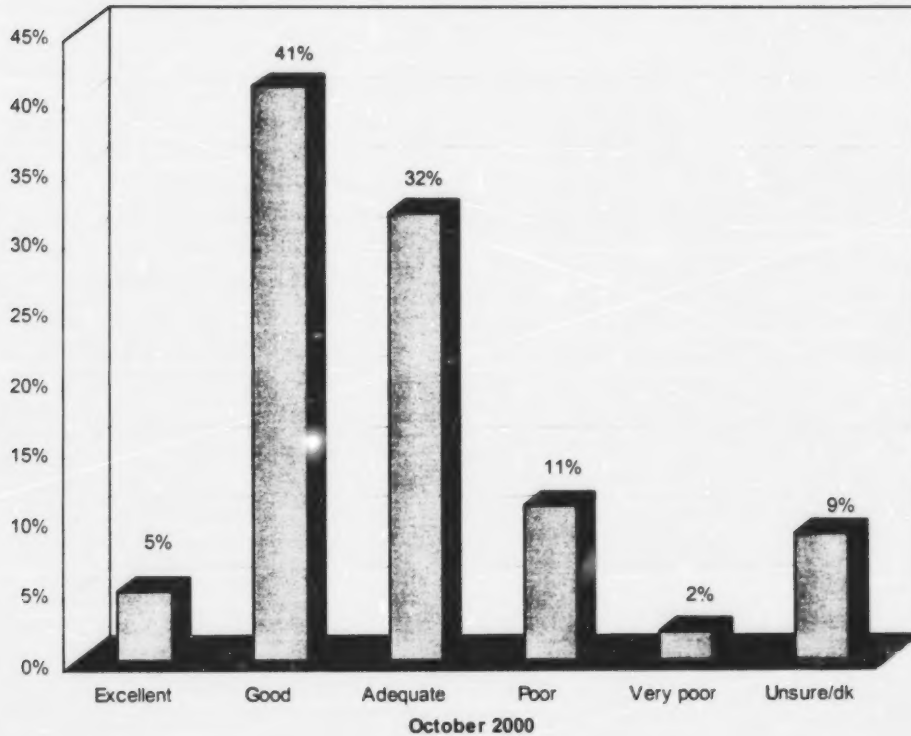
- The majority (51%) of Saskatchewan residents believe students' education today is better than the education they received; 19% believe there is very little difference.

Question 5. Do you think the quality of elementary education in Saskatchewan is generally excellent, good, adequate, poor or very poor?



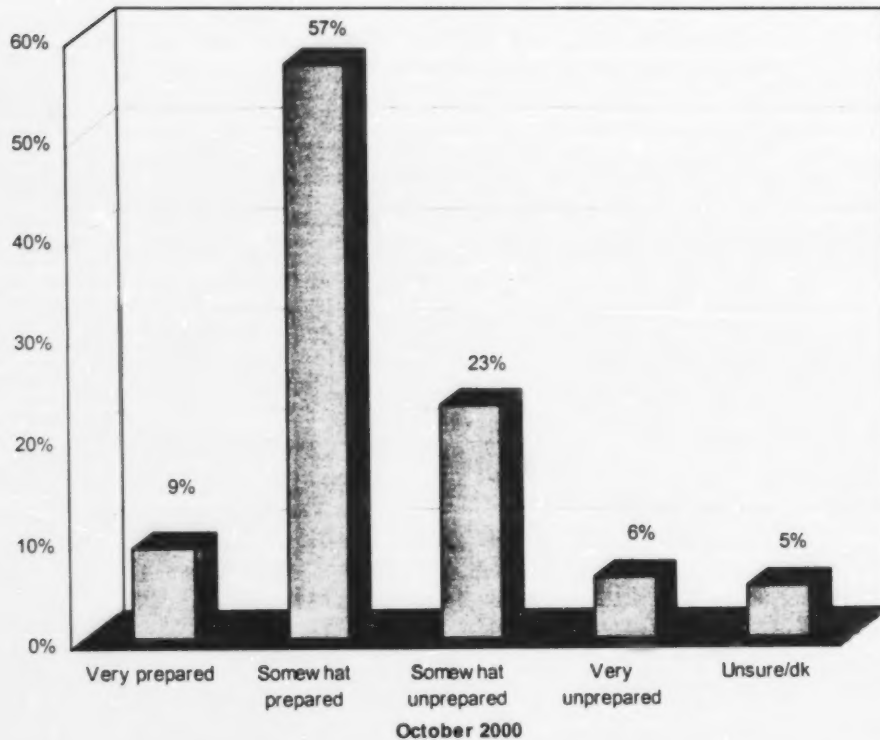
- The large majority (82%) of Saskatchewan residents think the quality of elementary education in Saskatchewan is adequate or better.

Question 6. Do you think that the quality of secondary or high school education in Saskatchewan is generally excellent, good, adequate, poor or very poor?



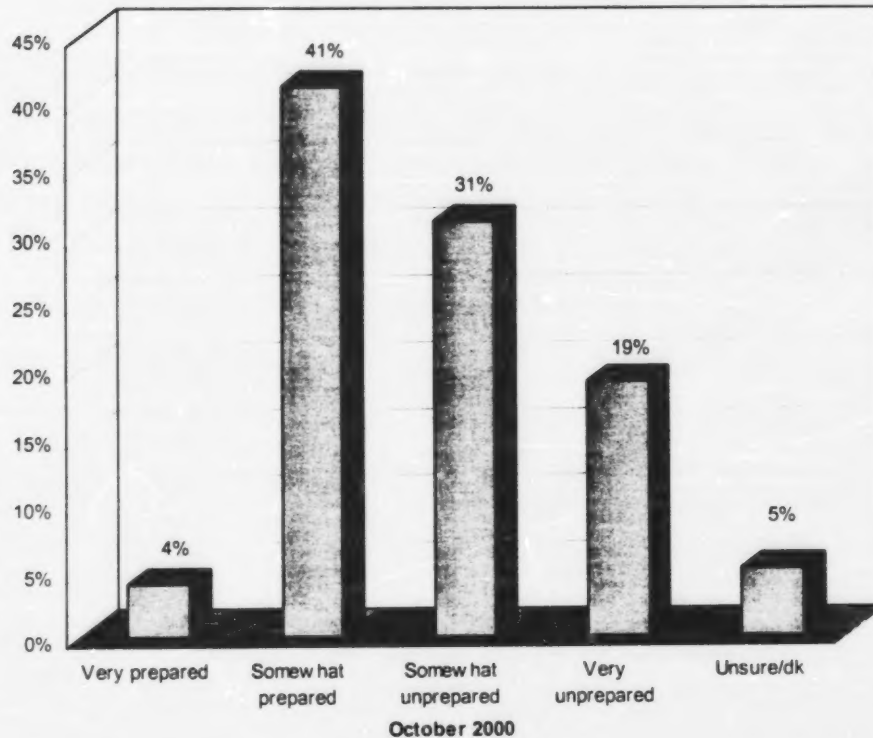
- More than three quarters (78%) of residents think the quality of secondary or high school education in Saskatchewan is adequate or better.

Question 7. Which best describes how well prepared you think Saskatchewan high school students are for entering post-secondary institutions like colleges or universities? Do you think they are very well prepared, only somewhat prepared, somewhat unprepared or very unprepared?



- The majority (66%) of residents think Saskatchewan high school students are prepared for entering post-secondary institutions like colleges or universities.

Question 8. How well prepared do you think high school students are for entering the workforce?

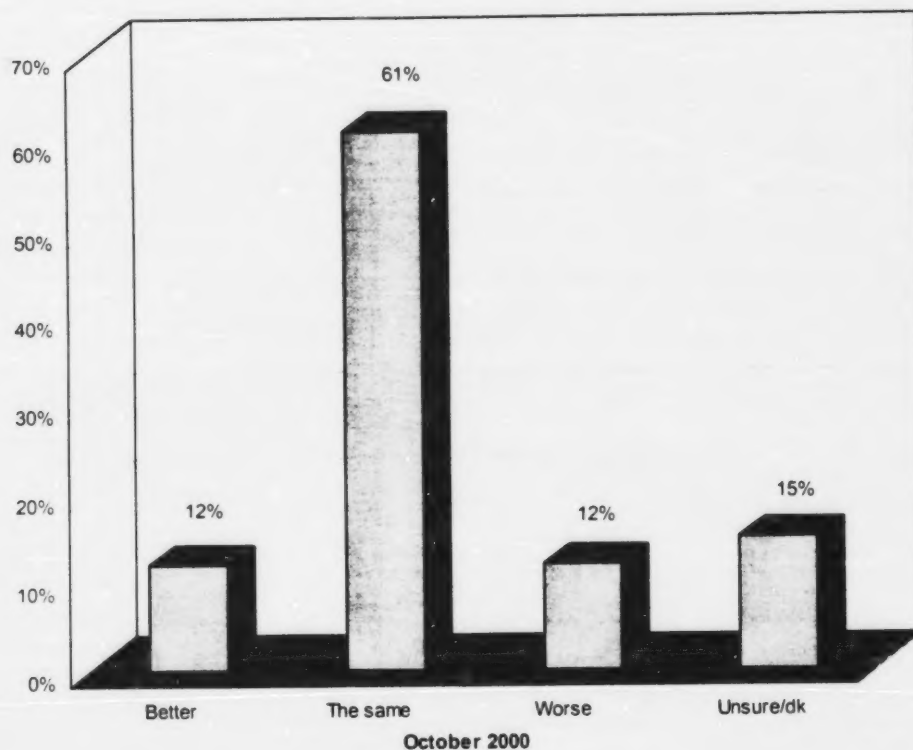


- Slightly less than one half (45%) of residents think Saskatchewan high school students are prepared for entering the workforce.

3.0

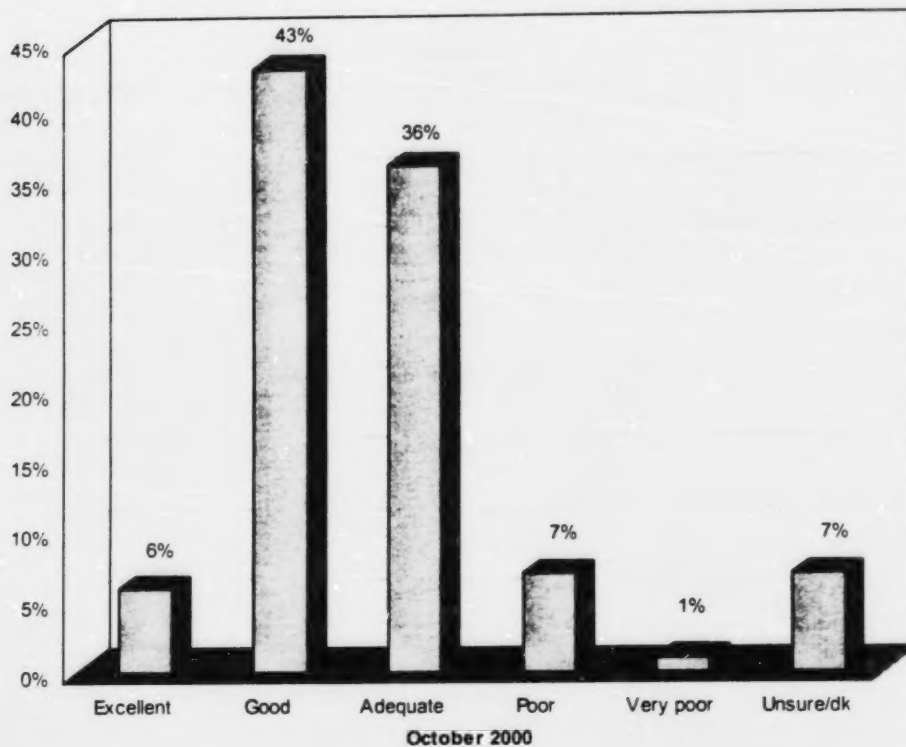
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & SKILLS TRAINING

Question 9. Compared to the rest of the country, do you think the post-secondary education and training system in Saskatchewan is better, the same or worse?



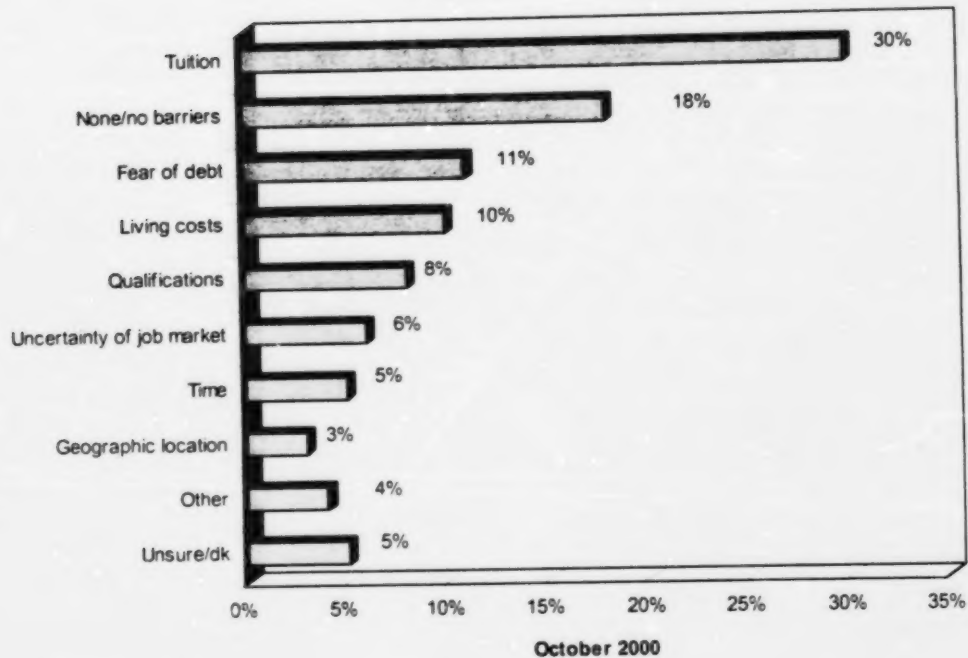
- The majority (73%) of residents think the post-secondary education and skills training system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.

Question 10. Do you think the quality of Saskatchewan's training programs is generally excellent, good, adequate, poor or very poor?



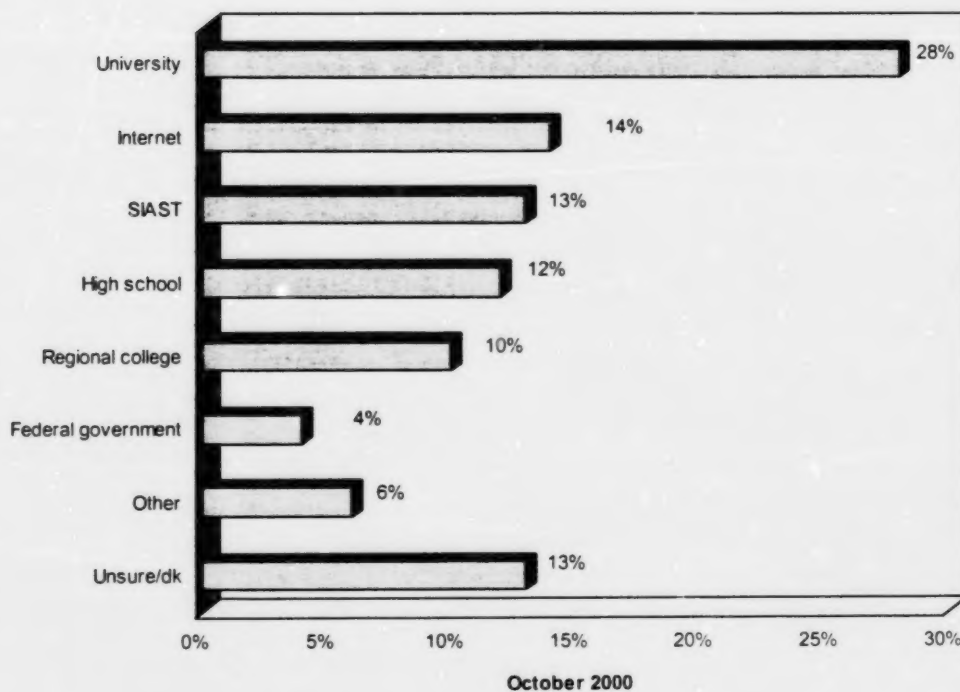
- The large majority of residents (85%) think the quality of Saskatchewan's training programs is adequate or better.

Question 11. What barriers do you or your family members experience which prevent you from taking post-secondary education or training?



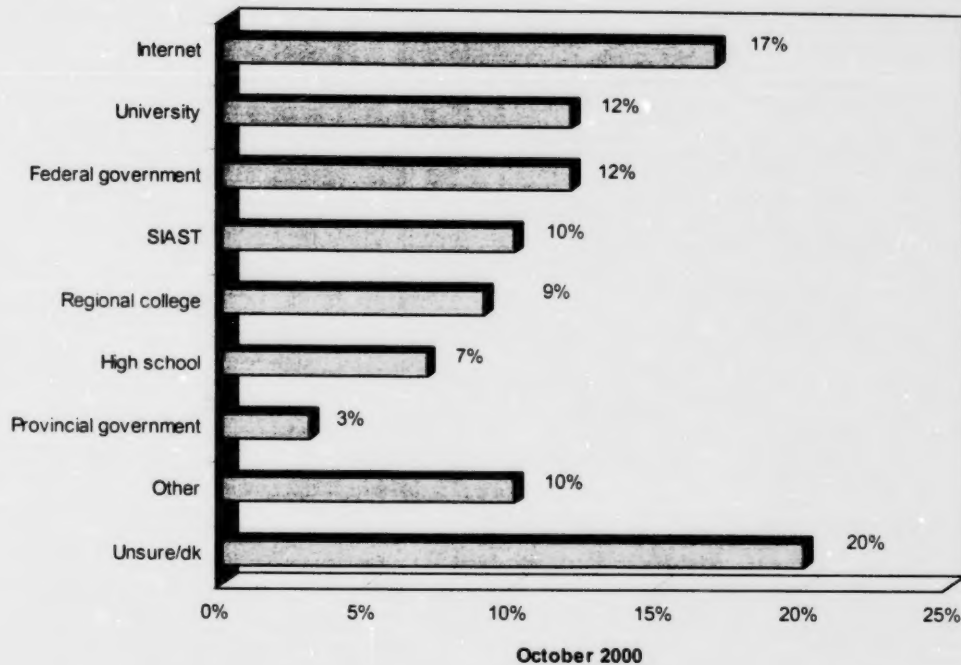
- More than one quarter (30%) of Saskatchewan residents identify tuition costs as a barrier for them or their family members to post-secondary education and training. Approximately 18% of residents indicate there are no barriers which prevent them from taking post-secondary education or training, 11% indicate apprehension with taking on the debt they associate with post-secondary education or training and 10% suggest living costs are a barrier.

Question 12. Where would you go to get information about post-secondary education and training opportunities in Saskatchewan?



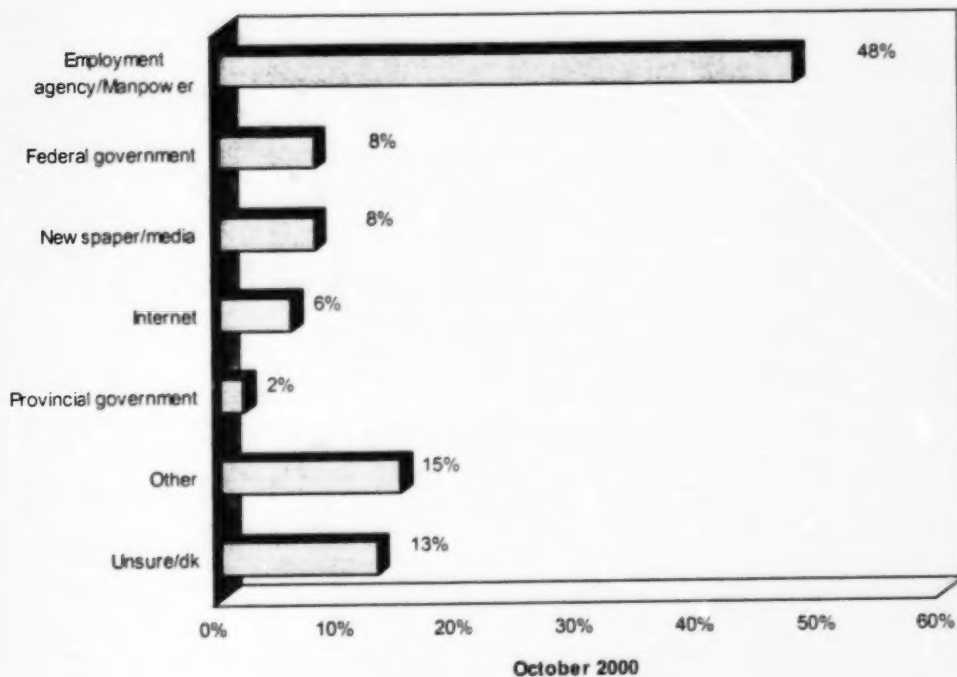
- More than one quarter (28%) of residents would go to a university to get information about post-secondary education and training opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Question 13. Where would you go for career information?



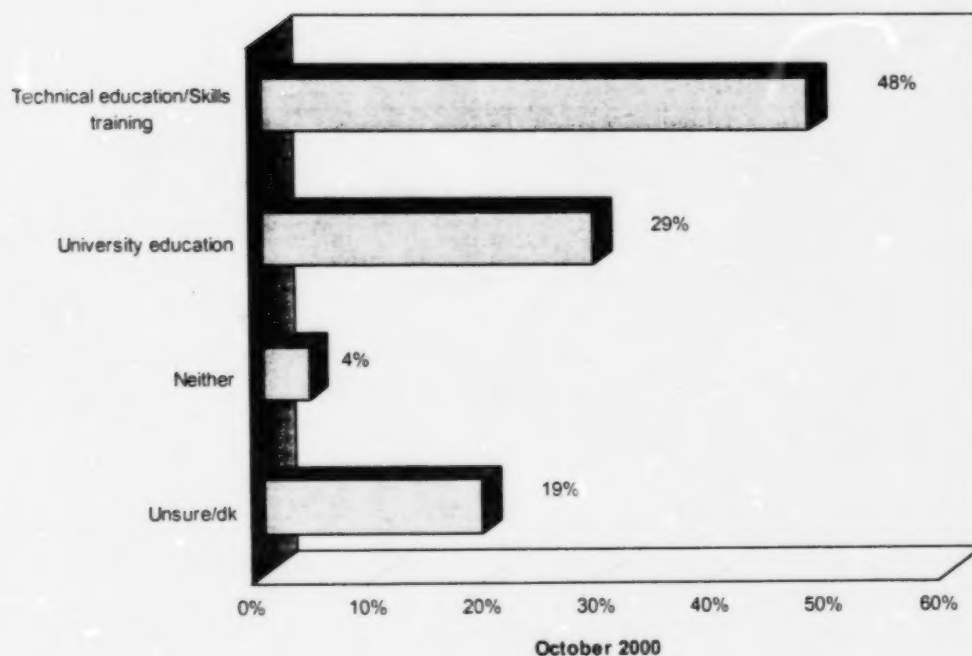
- Approximately 17% of Saskatchewan residents would search on the Internet for career information, 12% would go to a university, another 12% would get information from the federal government, 10% would get information from SIAST and 9% would go to a regional college.
- Included among 'other' identified by 10% of residents include an employment agency or 'Manpower' (HRDC) (2%), the company or industry of interest (2%) and guidance councillors (2%).

Question 14. Where would you go for information about job opportunities or to find workers?



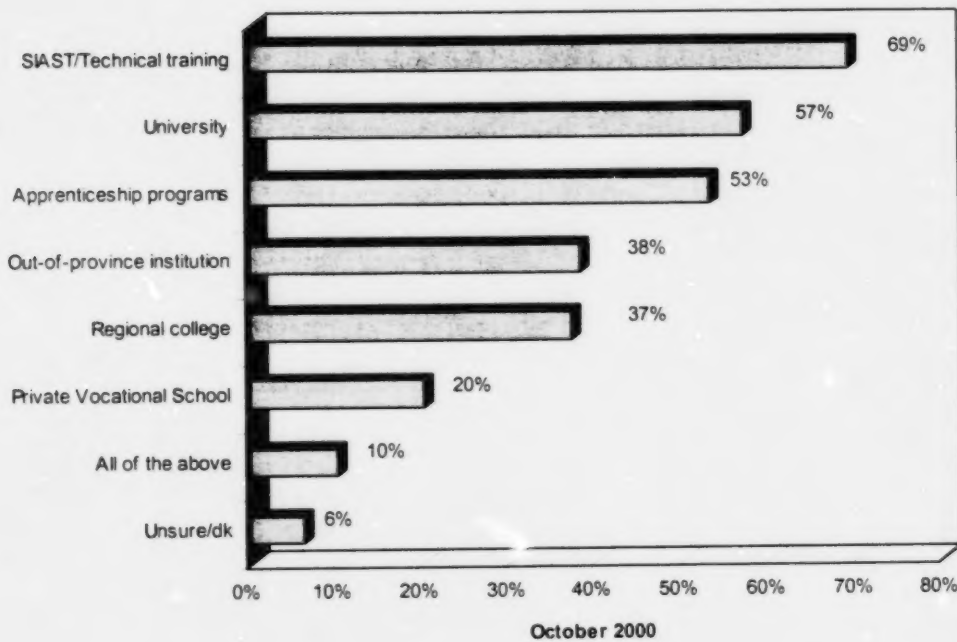
- Slightly less than one half (48%) of residents would go to an employment agency or 'Manpower' (HRDC) to get information about job opportunities or to find workers.
- Included among 'other' identified by 15% of residents include university (2%), SIAST (1%), regional college (1%) and word of mouth (1%).

Question 15. If you were advising a young person today, would you recommend they choose technical education and skills training or a university education?



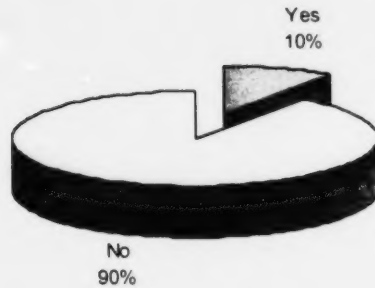
- Slightly less than one half (48%) of Saskatchewan residents would recommend technical education and skills training if they were advising a young person today; 29% would recommend a university education.

Question 16. Which institution would you suggest they attend? Would you recommend...



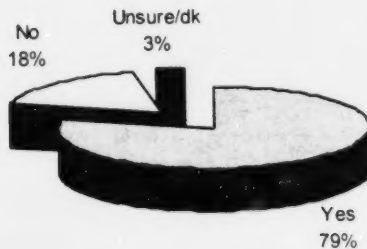
- If they were advising a young person today, Saskatchewan residents would recommend they attend SIAST or a technical training school (69%), university (57%), an apprenticeship program (53%), an out-of-province institution (38%) or a regional college (37%).

Question 17. In the past month have you taken post-secondary education or training?



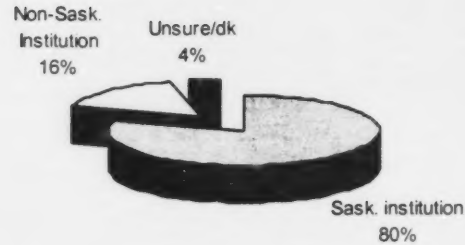
- The large majority of Saskatchewan residents (90%) have not taken post-secondary education or training in the past month; 10% have.

Question 18. Was this education or training in person?



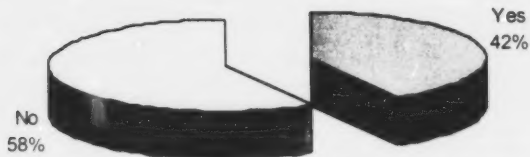
- Of those residents who have taken post-secondary training and education in the past month, the majority (79%, or 8% of all respondents) took the education or training in person.

Question 19. Was this education at a Saskatchewan institution or a non-Saskatchewan institution?



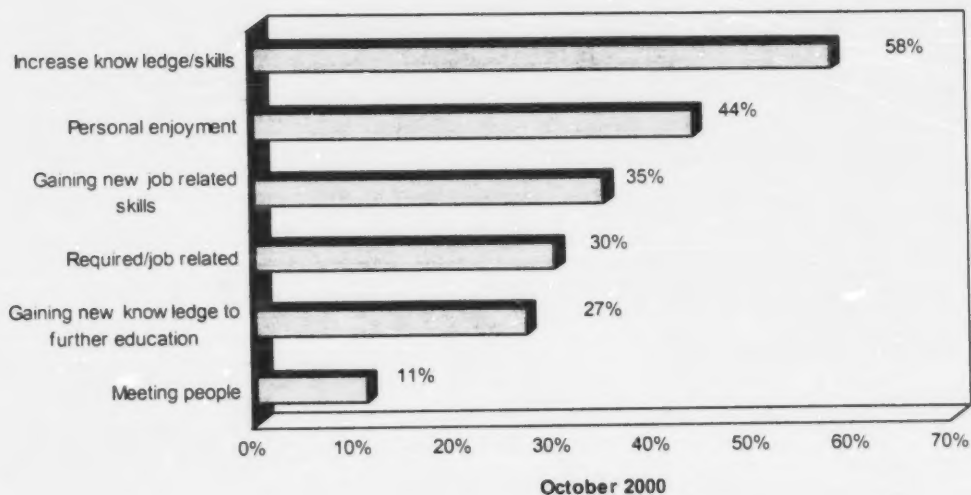
- Of those respondents who have taken education or training in the past month, the large majority (80%, or 8% of all respondents) did so through a Saskatchewan institution.

Question 20. In the past month have you participated in informal education or training such as attending public lectures or reading self-help books?



- Approximately 42% of Saskatchewan residents have participated in informal education or training in the past month.

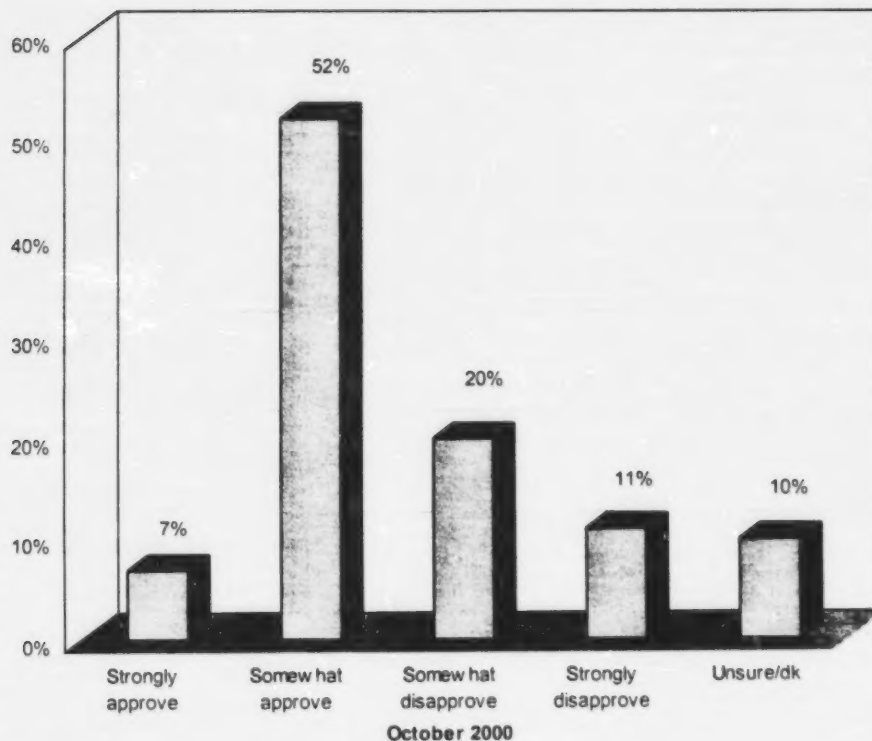
Question 21. What were the primary reasons for your participation? Was it for...



- Of those respondents who have participated in informal education or training in past month, the majority (58%, or 24% of all respondents) did so to increase their knowledge and skills and 44% (18% of all respondents) did so for personal enjoyment.

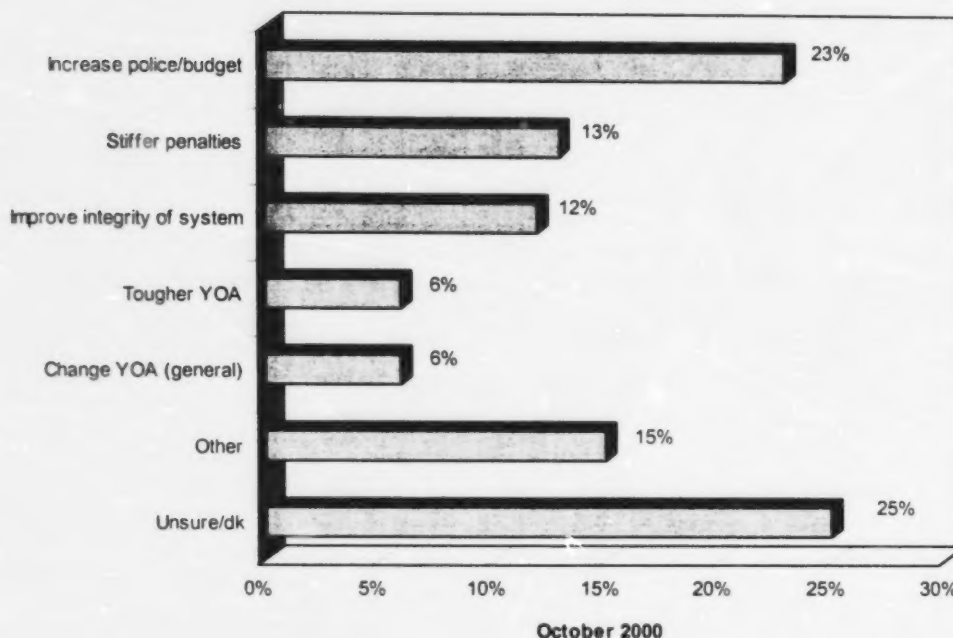
4.0 JUSTICE

Question 22. Generally speaking, do you strongly approve, moderately approve, moderately disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way Saskatchewan's provincial government is handling the policing of communities?



- The majority (59%) of residents approve of the way Saskatchewan's provincial government is handling the policing of communities.

Question 23. What would you like to see changed about the way the Saskatchewan provincial government manages policing and the justice system?

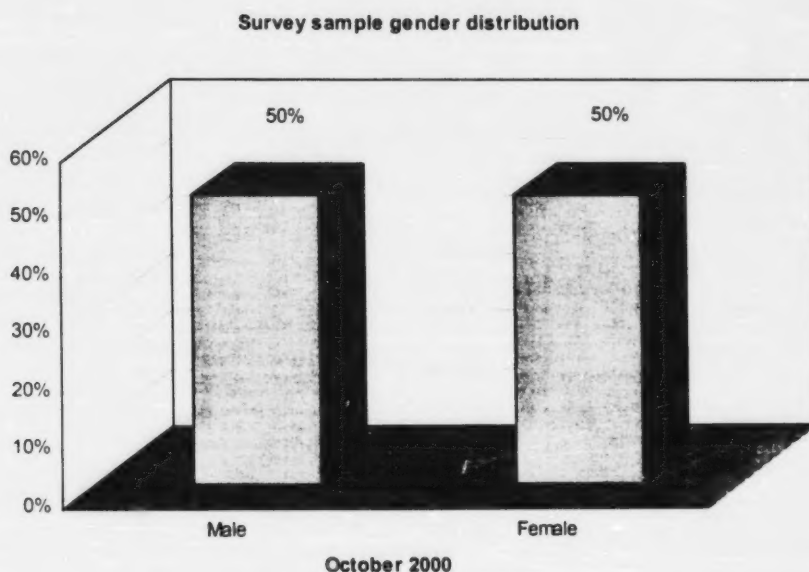


- Approximately 23% of Saskatchewan residents would like the government to increase the budget and hire more police, 13% would like stiffer penalties for offenders, 12% mention improving the integrity of the justice system, 6% think a tougher young offenders act and another 6% would like changes to the young offenders act in general.
- About 15% of respondents mention 'other' changes they would like to see in the justice system such as increasing the emphasis on addressing Native issues (3%), increasing communications with communities (2%), increasing social programs (2%), increasing funding in all areas (1%) and treating victims more fairly (1%).

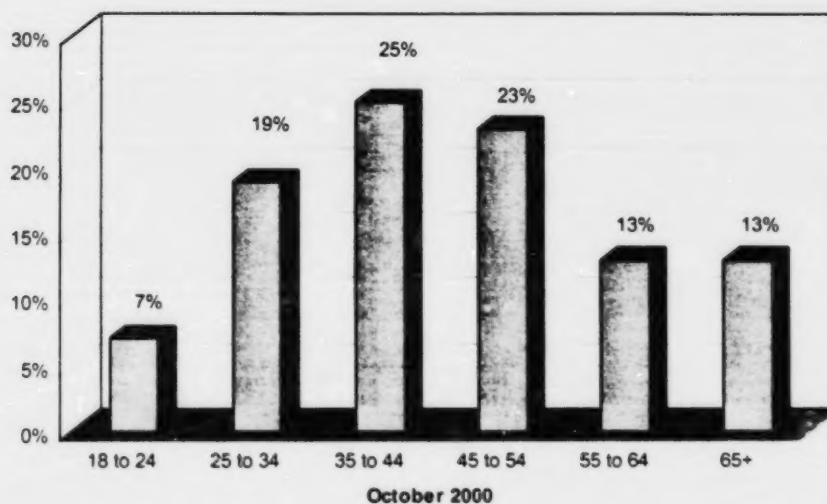
APPENDIX II SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

The omnibus public opinion sample frame is constructed to facilitate proportionate representation of various demographic characteristics evident within the province of Saskatchewan. This ensures that opinions of all the various types of residents in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report. The demographic distributions from the survey sample generally parallel the province's actual population distributions, as measured by Statistics Canada census data.

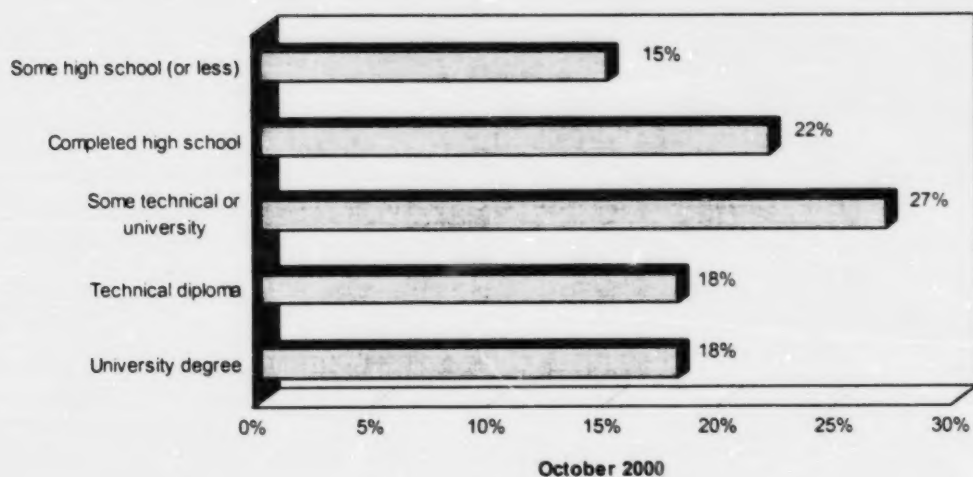
The omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error for the point estimates contained in this report of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.



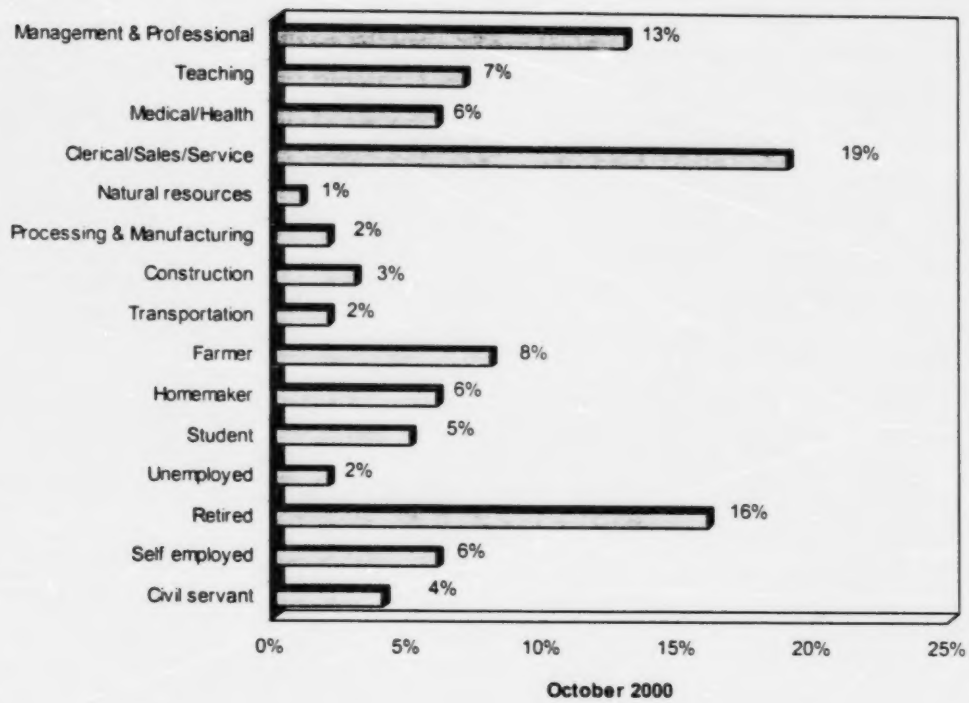
Survey sample age distribution



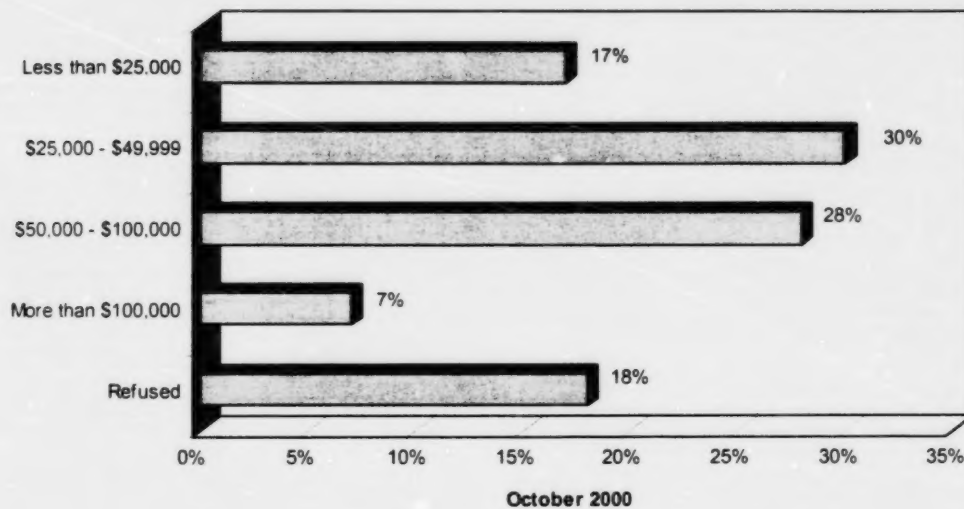
Survey sample education distribution



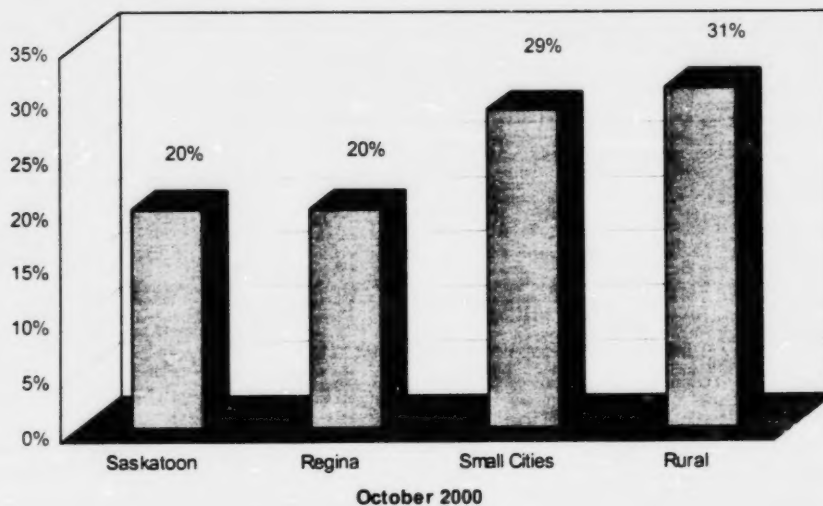
Survey sample occupation distribution



Survey sample income distribution



Survey sample regional distribution



Department/Crown commissioning the work:

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Date: **December, 2000**

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Saskatoon**

Cost: **\$22,500**

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December 2000

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Federal issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include health care, federal taxes, the accumulated debt and jobs and unemployment.
- Provincial issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include health care, agriculture, provincial taxes and jobs and unemployment.
- More than one third of residents think Saskatchewan should have a provincial sport, most of those think the sport should be curling.
- The majority of residents approve of the way Saskatchewan's provincial government is handling the policing of communities.
- More than one third know about or have heard about police-affiliated victim services in their area; more than one third are also aware of what services are available to victims in their area.
- The large majority of residents agree Saskatchewan is a great place in which to live, work and do business and that the provincial government should be developing an economic strategy for the future.
- The majority of residents were aware of the Saskatchewan Sales Tax credit.
- Slightly less than one half of Saskatchewan residents agree that it is fair to pay provincial sales tax on more goods and services so long as income taxes are substantially reduced.
- The majority of residents approve of the way Saskatchewan's government is managing the provincial finances.
- The majority of residents think lower income taxes will help Saskatchewan's economy and create jobs and opportunities, their take-home pay is a more important factor than the amount of sales tax they will have to pay and the most important objective of tax reform should be to create economic growth and opportunities.
- The large majority of residents are confident in the ability of Saskatchewan's Emergency Health Services to respond to health care emergencies quickly and effectively.
- The majority of Saskatchewan residents rate the quality of health care services they or their family members have received in the past 12 months as either excellent or good.
- The majority of residents rate the current level of health services provided in the province as either excellent or good.
- More than three quarters of residents think that Saskatchewan has the ability to make Medicare work into the future.

METHODOLOGY

Doug Fast & Associates was retained by the Government of Saskatchewan to conduct the December 2000 public opinion survey with a representative sample of the Saskatchewan population. The December Omnibus Survey contains questions designed to explore public opinion regarding:

- federal issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- provincial issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- the justice system;
- economic and co-operative development;
- finance; and
- health care.

The questions for the survey were provided by Saskatchewan Executive Council and assembled into an interview format by Doug Fast & Associates. The questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure that all of the questions being asked in the interview were understood by the general public and the information being gathered addressed the public opinion research objectives.

The sample frame for this public opinion research survey was constructed to obtain complete interviews from a random sample of 1,000 households throughout Saskatchewan. To ensure proportionate representation from all areas of Saskatchewan, the province was divided into nine geographic sampling districts. Interview respondents were selected randomly from Saskatchewan telephone directories in each region using standard polling practices to ensure random selection of households and respondents. The sampling frame was also constructed to ensure proportionate representation of other important demographic characteristics evident within the provincial population such as gender, age, occupation, level of education and level of household income. This ensures that the opinions of all the various types of people who reside in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report.

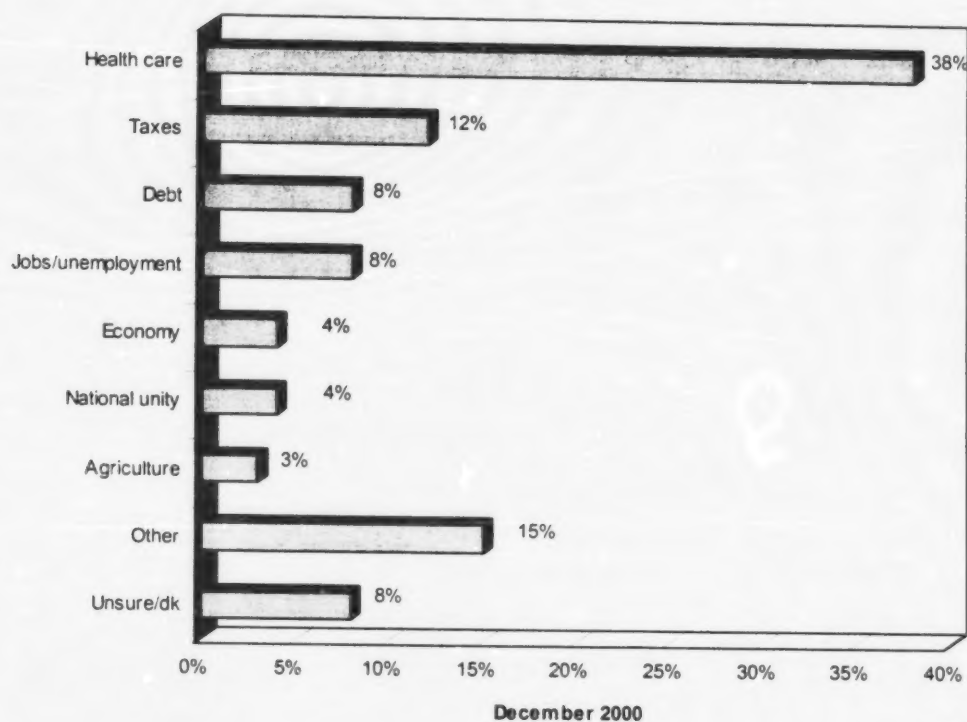
One thousand residents of the province were interviewed over an eight-day period between Thursday, November 30 and Thursday, December 7, 2000. Interviews were conducted by telephone at times that were appropriate and convenient for respondents - weekdays between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and weekends between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All interviews were conducted by Doug Fast & Associates' in-house public opinion interviewers using our *Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing* (CATI) call centre.

The Omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points: reliable results with low variability. Frequency charts for all public opinion issues are illustrated in this report.

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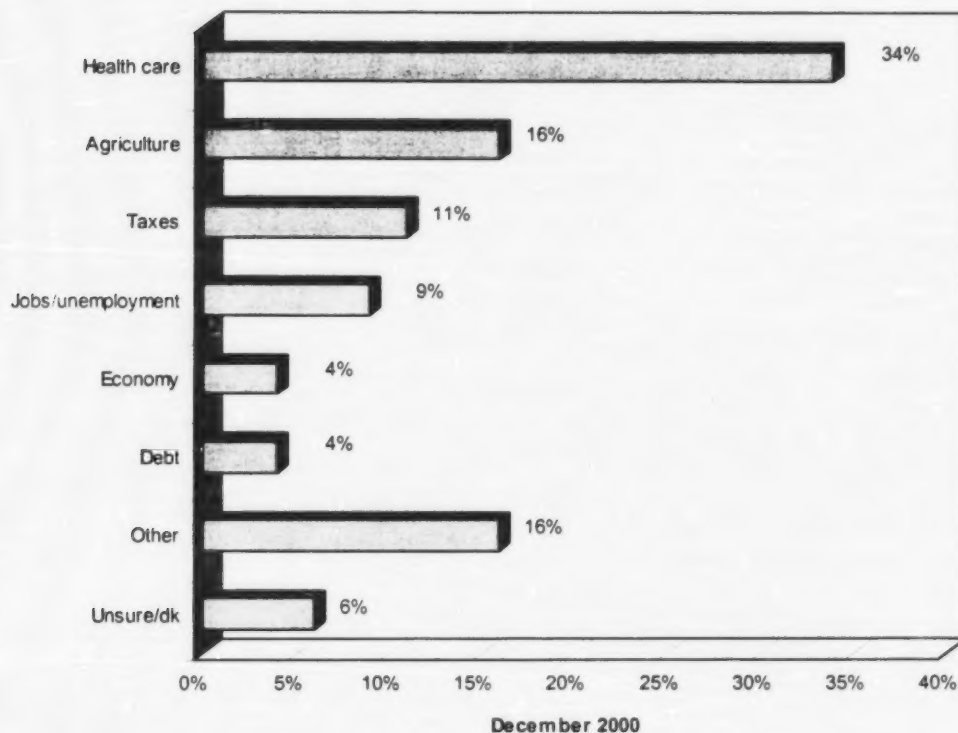
1.0 GENERAL ISSUES

Question 1. In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Canada today?



- According to 38% of Saskatchewan residents, the most important issue facing Canada today is the health care system. Other important issues include federal taxes (12%), the national deficit and accumulated debt (8%), jobs and unemployment (8%), the economy (4%) and national unity (4%).
- Approximately 15% of respondents are primarily concerned with 'other' issues such as the federal government in general (4%), moral, social and religious issues (2%), crime and poverty (2%) and education (1%).

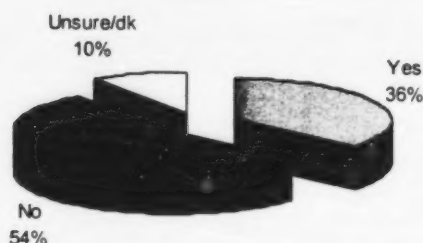
Question 2. What do you think is the most important issue facing the province of Saskatchewan today?



- The most important issue facing the province today, according to 34% of Saskatchewan residents, is health care. Approximately 16% of residents are concerned primarily with agriculture, 11% with provincial taxes, 9% with jobs and unemployment, 4% with the provincial economy and another 4% of respondents are primarily concerned with the provincial debt.
- Included among 'other' important issues identified by 16% of respondents are the provincial government in general (2%), population loss and rural development (2%), highways and transportation (2%), separation and national unity (1%) and moral, social and religious issues (1%).

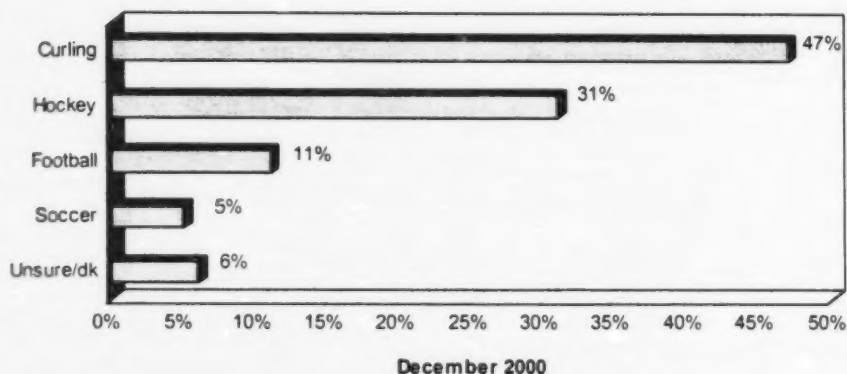
2.0 INTERGOVERNMENTAL & ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Question 3. Saskatchewan has an official flower, bird, tree, plant, mineral and tartans, but we don't at present have an official sport. Should we have one?



- More than one third (36%) of residents think Saskatchewan should have an official sport.

Question 4. Four sports have been suggested as the possible Official Sport for Saskatchewan. Which one would you choose?

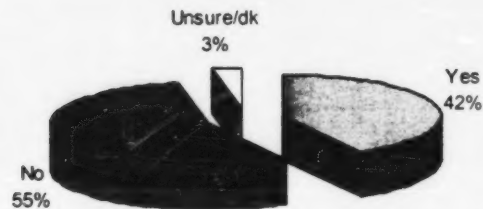


- Slightly less than one half (47%) of those residents who think Saskatchewan should have an official sport think the official sport for Saskatchewan should be curling (17% of all respondents). Approximately 31% think the official sport of Saskatchewan should be hockey (11% of all respondents).

3.0

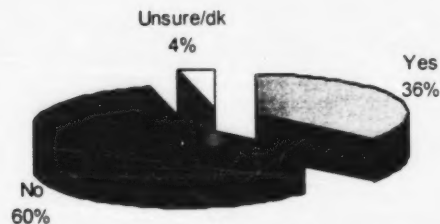
JUSTICE

Question 5. Do you know about or have you heard about police-affiliated victim services?



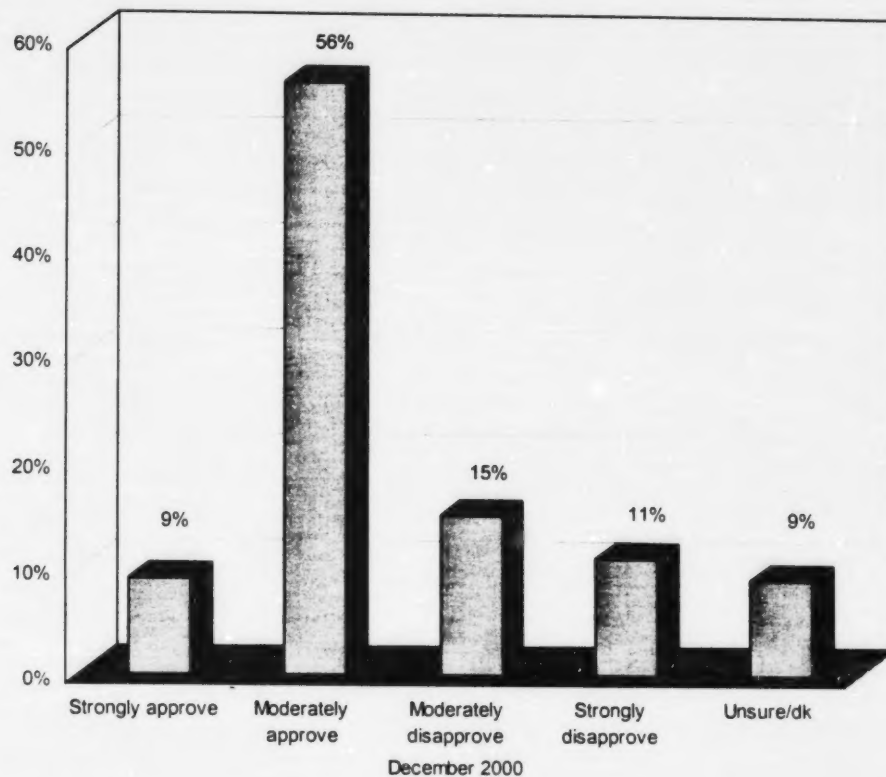
- Approximately 42% of Saskatchewan residents know about or have heard about police-affiliated victim services.

Question 6. Are you aware of what services are available to victims in your area?



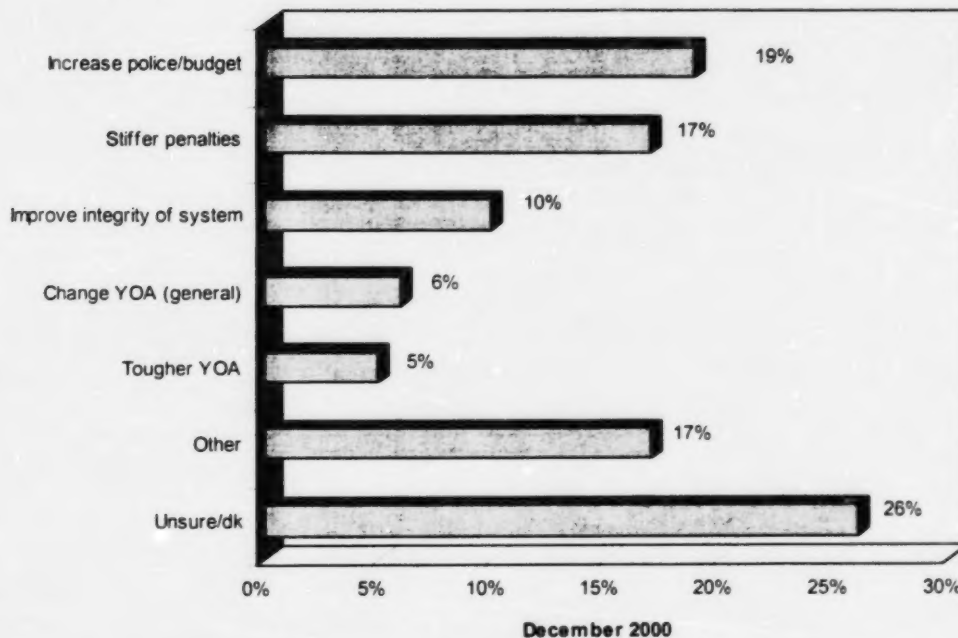
- More than one third (36%) of residents are aware of what services are available to victims in their area.

Question 7. How much do you approve of the way Saskatchewan's provincial government is handling the policing of communities?



- The majority (65%) of residents approve of the way Saskatchewan's provincial government is handling the policing of communities.

Question 8. What would you like to see changed about the way the Saskatchewan provincial government manages policing and the justice system?

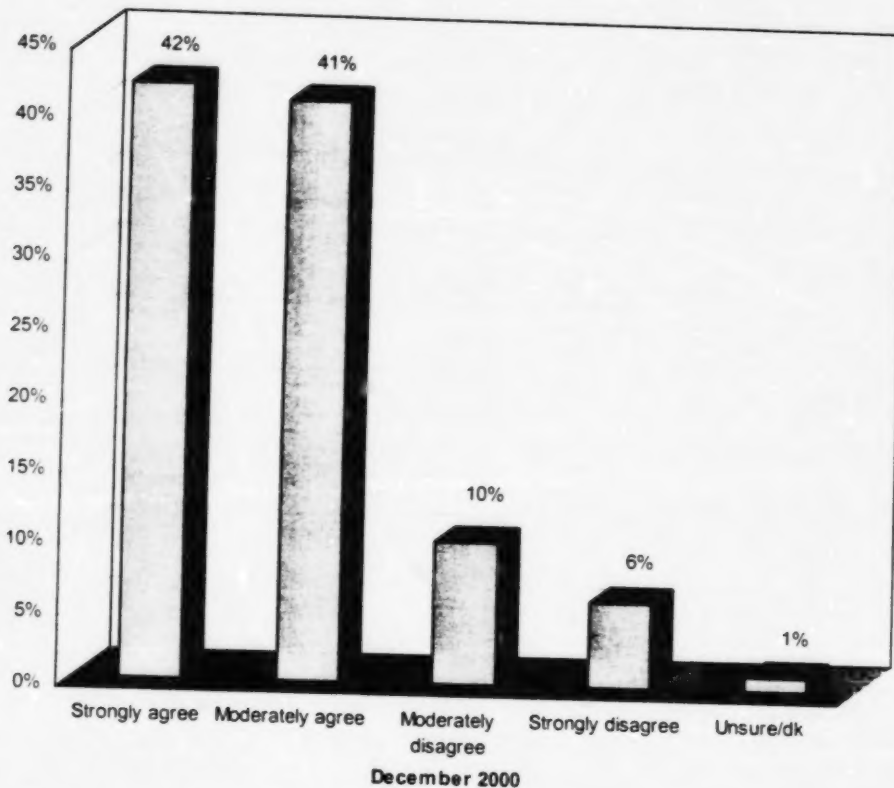


- Approximately 19% of Saskatchewan residents would like the government to increase the budget and hire more police, 17% would like stiffer penalties for offenders, 10% mention improving the integrity of the justice system, 6% would like changes to the young offenders act in general and 5% would like a tougher young offenders act.
- About 17% of respondents mention 'other' changes they would like to see in the justice system such as dealing with Native issues more effectively (4%), treating victims more fairly (2%), reducing the risk of crimes (2%), increasing social programs (2%), increasing communications with communities (1%) and increase funding in all areas (1%).

4.0 ECONOMIC & CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

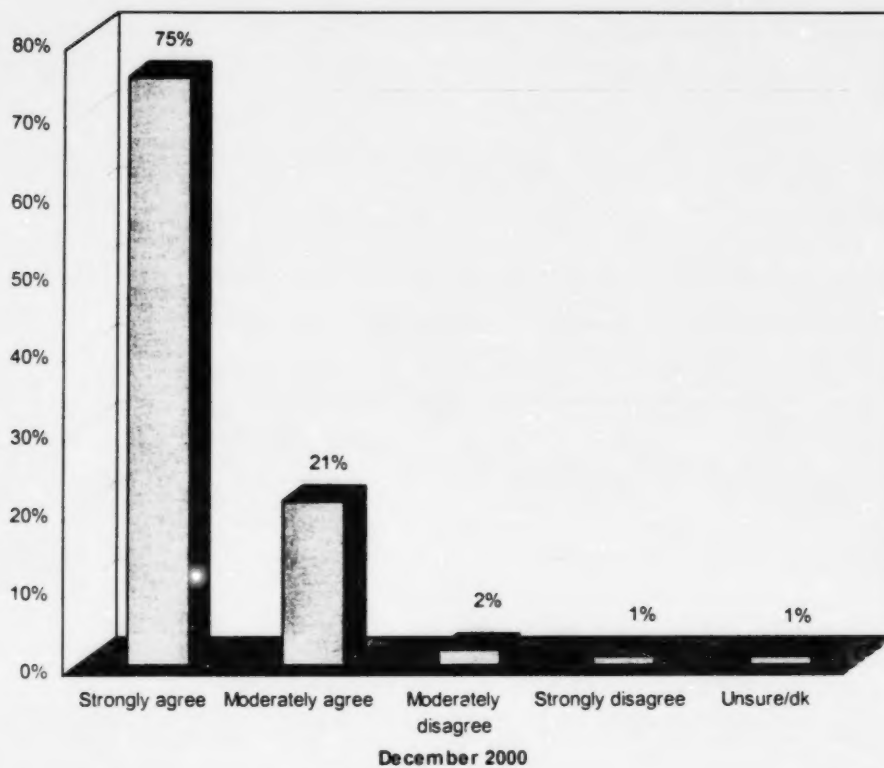
How much do you agree with the following statements?

Question 9a. Saskatchewan is a great place in which to live, work and do business.



- The large majority (83%) of residents agree that Saskatchewan is a great place in which to live, work and do business.

Question 9b. The provincial government should be developing an economic strategy for the future.



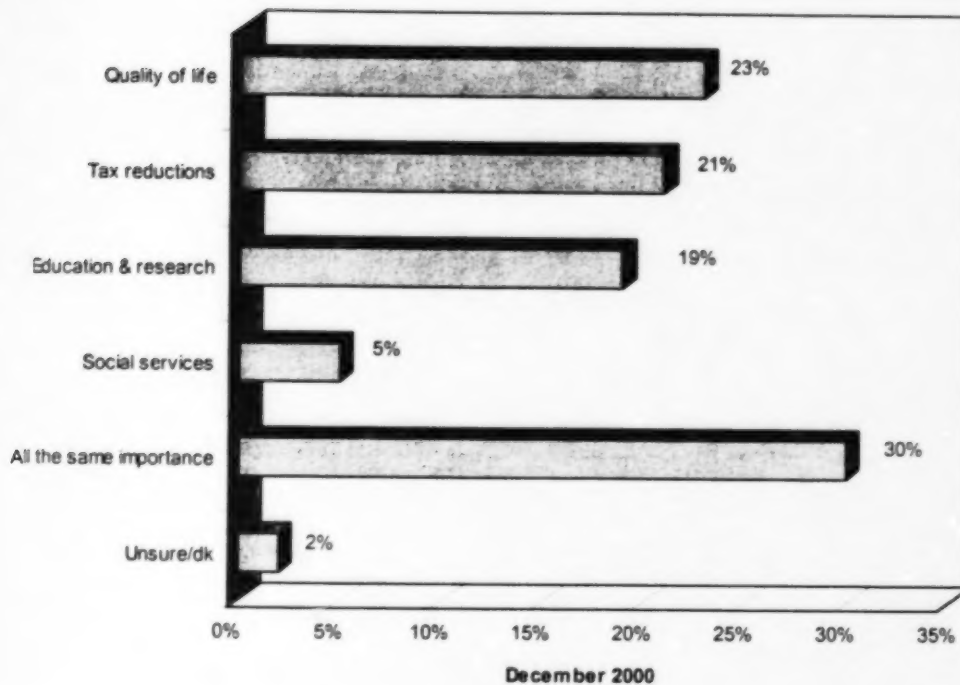
- The large majority (96%) of Saskatchewan residents agree the provincial government should be developing an economic strategy for the future; three quarters (75%) strongly agree.

Question 10. Using a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means lowest priority and 10 means highest priority, what priority would you like to see the provincial government place on each of the following areas.

	Low priority (1-4)	Neutral (5-7)	High priority (8-10)	DK
Investing in areas specifically designed to enhance the quality of life such as environmental protection and health care.	4%	20%	75%	1%
Investing in education and research to support the knowledge economy.	4%	29%	65%	2%
Investing in tax reductions to improve competitiveness.	10%	32%	56%	2%
Investing in social services that provide access to opportunity to all.	12%	41%	45%	2%

- Three quarters (75%) of Saskatchewan residents think the provincial government should give high priority (rank of 8 – 10) to investing in areas specifically designed to enhance the quality of life.
- The majority think the provincial government should place high priority on investing in education and research to support the knowledge economy (65%) and investing in tax reduction to improve competitiveness (56%).
- Almost one half (45%) think the provincial government should place high priority on investing in social services that provide access to opportunity to all.

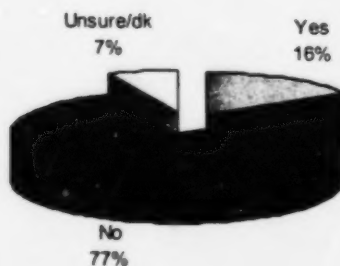
Question 11. Thinking of all the economic issues I mentioned, which is most important to you?



- Almost one third (30%) of Saskatchewan residents consider these economic issues as equally important. Approximately 23% think areas designed to enhance the quality of life is most important, 21% think tax reductions to improve competitiveness is most important and 19% say investing in education and research to support the knowledge economy is most important to them.

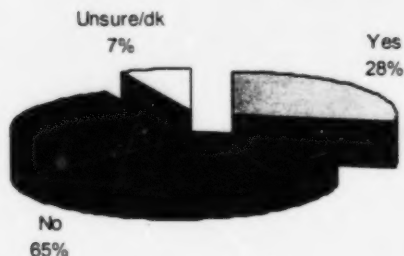
5.0 FINANCE

Question 12a. The first income tax cuts were implemented July 1, 2000. Did you or anyone in your household note a difference in take-home pay?



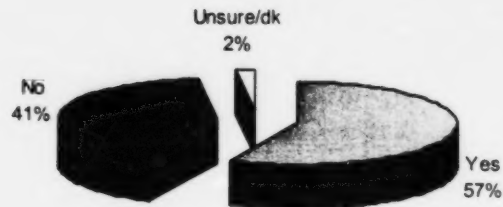
- Approximately 16% of residents indicate they or someone in their household noted a difference in their take-home pay. More than three quarters (77%) did not.

Question 12b. Did anyone in your household receive the Saskatchewan Sales Tax Credit in October?



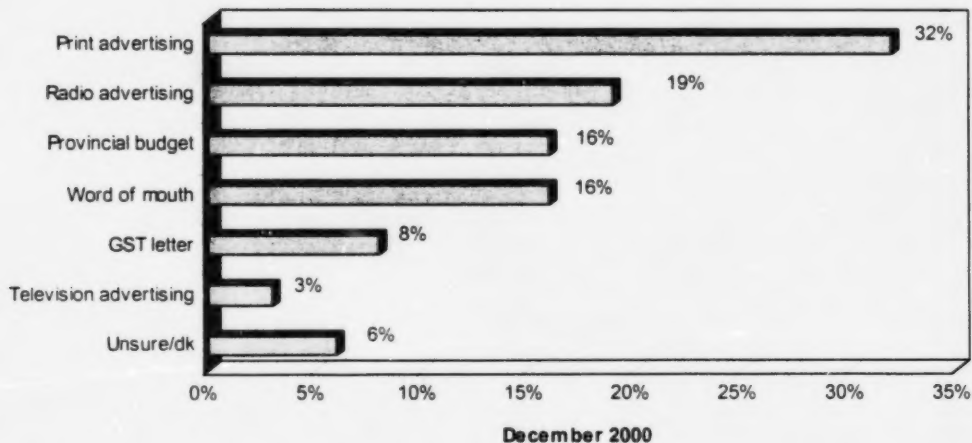
- More than one quarter (28%) of residents indicate a member of their household received the Saskatchewan Sales Tax Credit in October.

Question 12c. Were you aware of the Saskatchewan Sales Tax Credit?



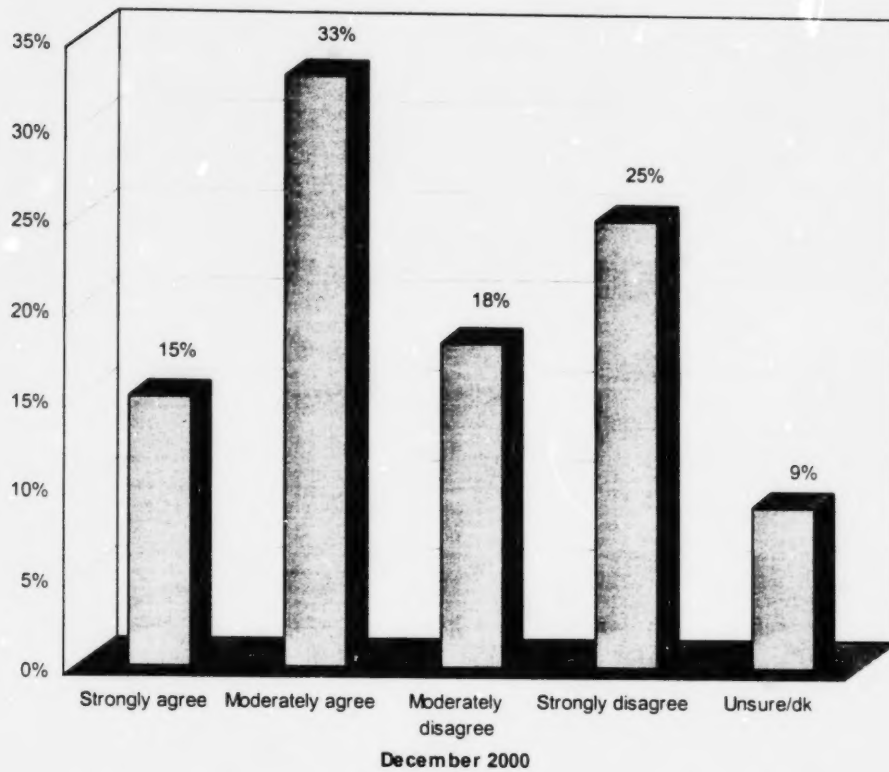
- The majority (57%) of residents were aware of the Saskatchewan Sales Tax Credit.

Question 12d. How did you become aware of the Saskatchewan Sales Tax credit?



- Approximately 32% of those residents who were aware of the Saskatchewan Sales Tax Credit heard about it through print advertising (18% of all respondents), 19% indicate radio advertising (11% of all respondents), 16% mention the provincial budget (9% of all respondents) and another 16% mention word of mouth (9% of all respondents).

Question 13. Do you agree or disagree that it is fair to pay provincial sales tax on more goods and services so long as income taxes are substantially reduced?



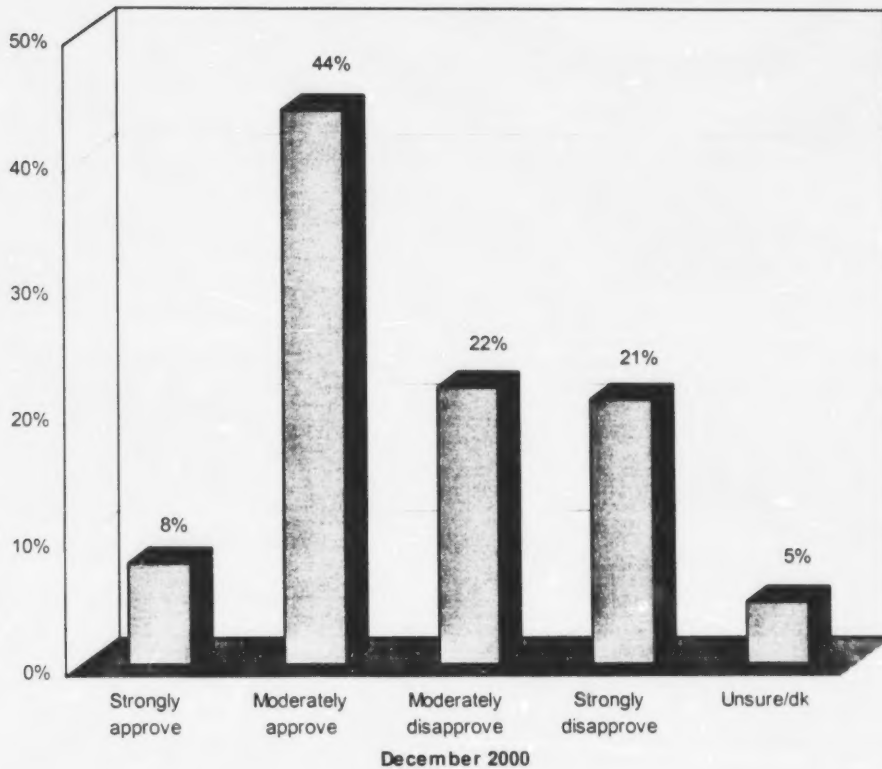
- Slightly less than one half (48%) of Saskatchewan residents agree that it is fair to pay provincial sales tax on more goods and services so long as income taxes are substantially reduced; 43% disagree.

Question 14. Using a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means lowest priority and 10 means highest priority, what priority would you like to see the provincial government place on each of the following areas.

	Low priority (1-4)	Neutral (5-7)	High priority (8-10)	DK
Lower personal income tax rates.	6%	32%	59%	3%
Eliminating surtaxes.	7%	34%	50%	9%
Higher tax credits for seniors.	16%	33%	47%	4%
Higher basic tax credits.	9%	39%	46%	6%
Higher child tax credits.	14%	35%	46%	5%
Higher spousal tax credits.	14%	40%	39%	7%
Eliminating "bracket creep" by indexing tax rates and tax credits to inflation.	7%	36%	39%	18%

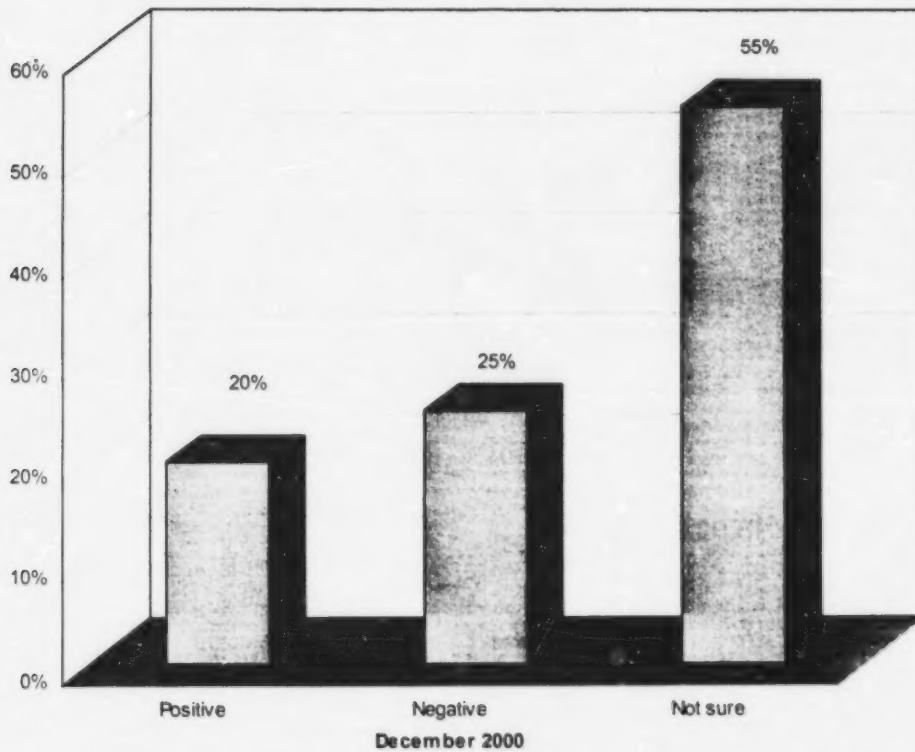
- The majority (59%) of Saskatchewan residents would like to see the provincial government place high priority (rank of 8 - 10) on lowering personal income tax rates. One half (50%) think eliminating surtaxes should receive high priority.
- More than one third of residents would like to see the provincial government place high priority on higher tax credits for seniors (47%), higher basic tax credits (46%), higher child tax credits (46%), higher spousal tax credits (39%) and eliminating "bracket creep" by indexing tax rates and tax credits to inflation.

Question 15. How much do you approve of the way Saskatchewan's government is managing the provincial finances?



- The majority (52%) of residents approve of the way Saskatchewan's government is managing the provincial finances.

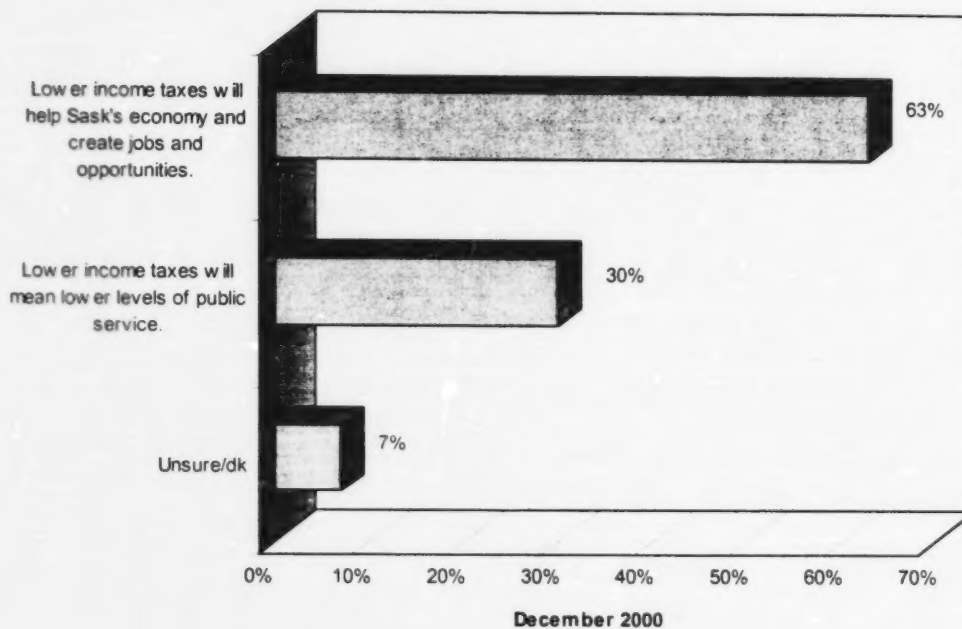
Question 16. What do you think the impact of this year's provincial tax changes has been on your finances?



- Approximately 20% of Saskatchewan residents think the impact of this year's provincial tax changes has been positive on their finances; one quarter (25%) think they have been negative and the majority (55%) are unsure of the impact.

Question 17a. Which of the following two statements is closest to your own point of view?

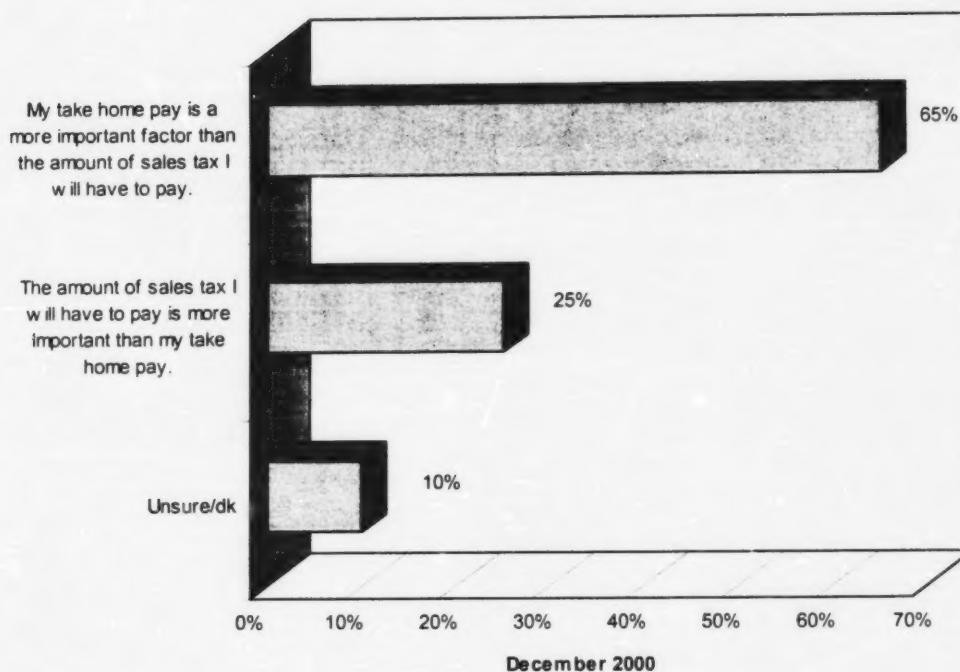
- 1) Lower income taxes will help Saskatchewan's economy and create jobs and opportunities, or
- 2) Lower income taxes will mean lower levels of public service
- 3) Unsure/dk



- The majority (63%) of residents think lower income taxes will help Saskatchewan's economy and create jobs and opportunities.

Question 17b. Which of the following two statements is closest to your own point of view?

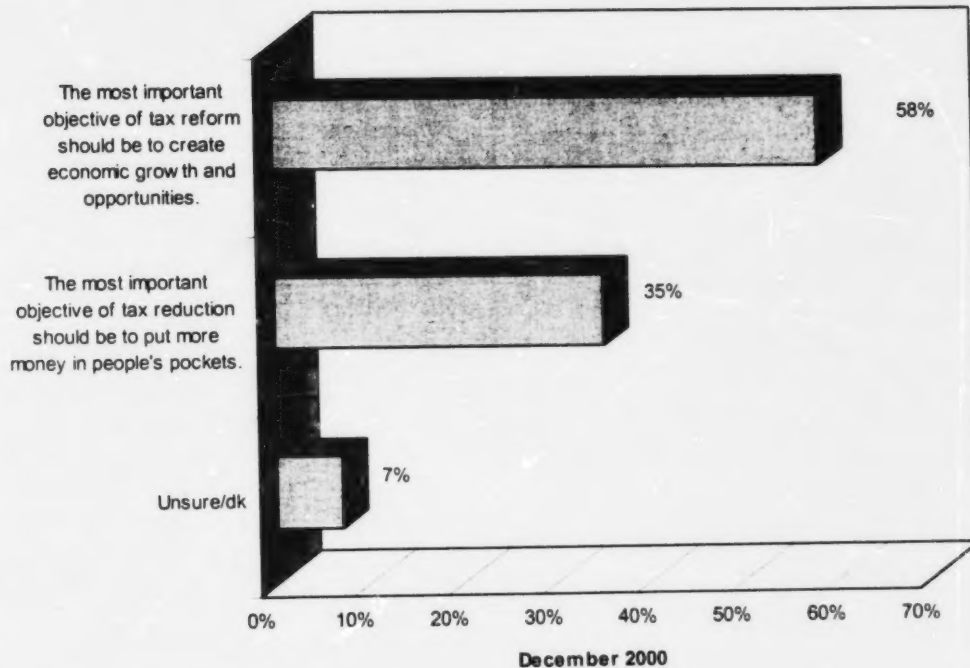
- 1) When making a decision to purchase an item, my take-home pay is a more important factor than the amount of sales tax I will have to pay, or
- 2) When making a decision to purchase an item, the amount of sales tax I will have to pay is more important than my take-home pay
- 3) Unsure/dk



- The majority (65%) of Saskatchewan residents indicate that when making a decision to purchase an item, their take-home pay is a more important factor than the amount of sales tax they will have to pay.

Question 17c. Which of the following two statements is closest to your own point of view?

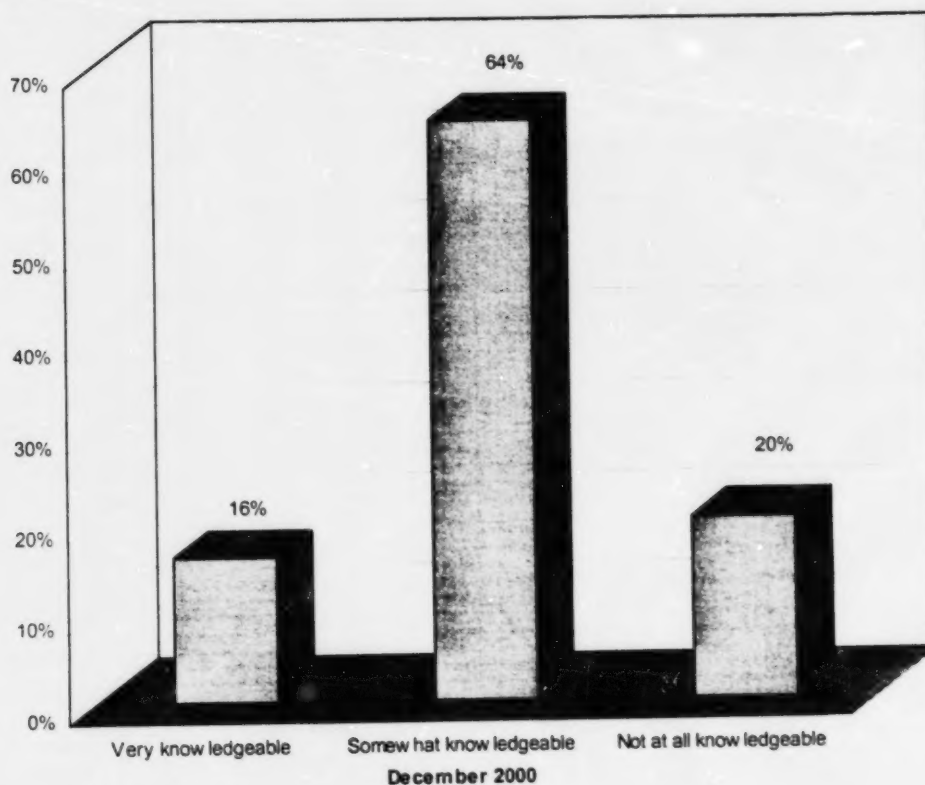
- 1) The most important objective of tax reduction should be to put more money into peoples' pockets, or
- 2) The most important objective of tax reform should be to create economic growth and opportunities
- 3) Unsure/dk



- The majority (58%) of Saskatchewan residents think the most important objective of tax reform should be to create economic growth and opportunities.

6.0 HEALTH CARE

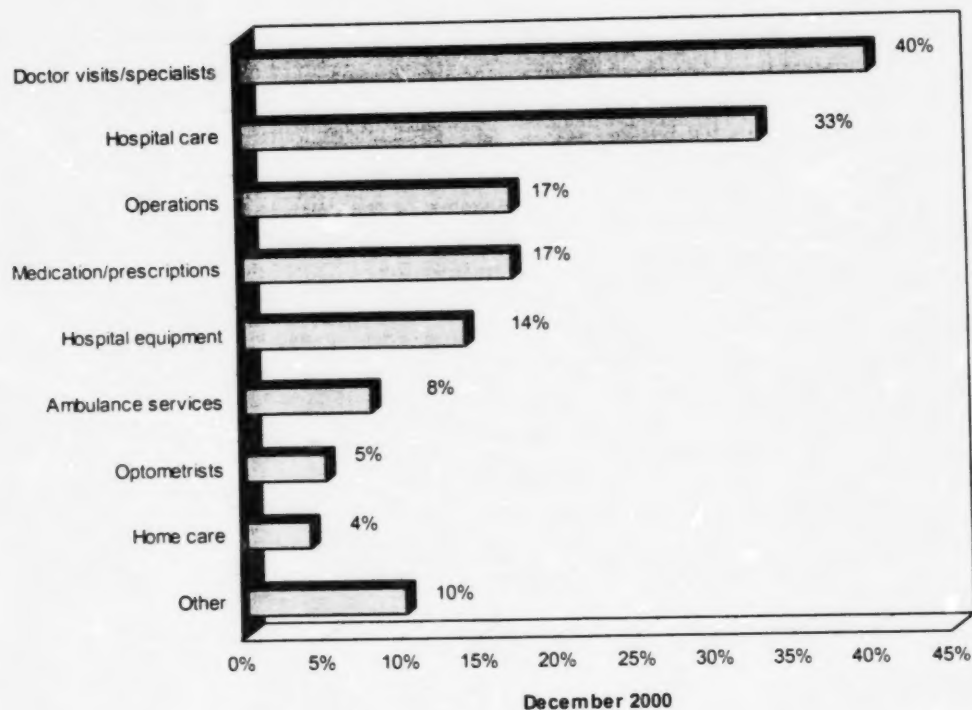
Question 19. How would you describe your level of knowledge about which health care services are paid for, in full or in part, by Saskatchewan Health?



- The large majority (80%) of residents indicate they are very or somewhat knowledgeable about which health care services are paid for in full or in part by Saskatchewan Health.

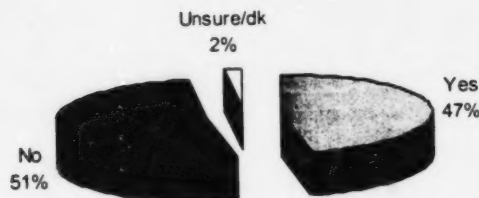
Question 20. Can you name the three health care services whose costs are paid for by Saskatchewan Health?

Note: Respondents are able to give more than one response to this question, therefore the chart below sums to greater than 100%.



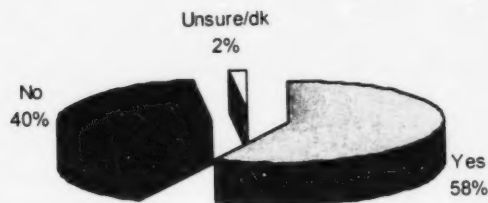
- Approximately 40% of Saskatchewan residents mention visits to the doctor or specialist are paid for by Saskatchewan Health, 33% mention hospital care, 17% indicate operations, another 17% mention medication and prescriptions and 14% mention Saskatchewan Health pays for hospital equipment.

Question 22. Do you or your family carry any supplemental health insurance which you have purchased to cover the cost of uninsured health care services?



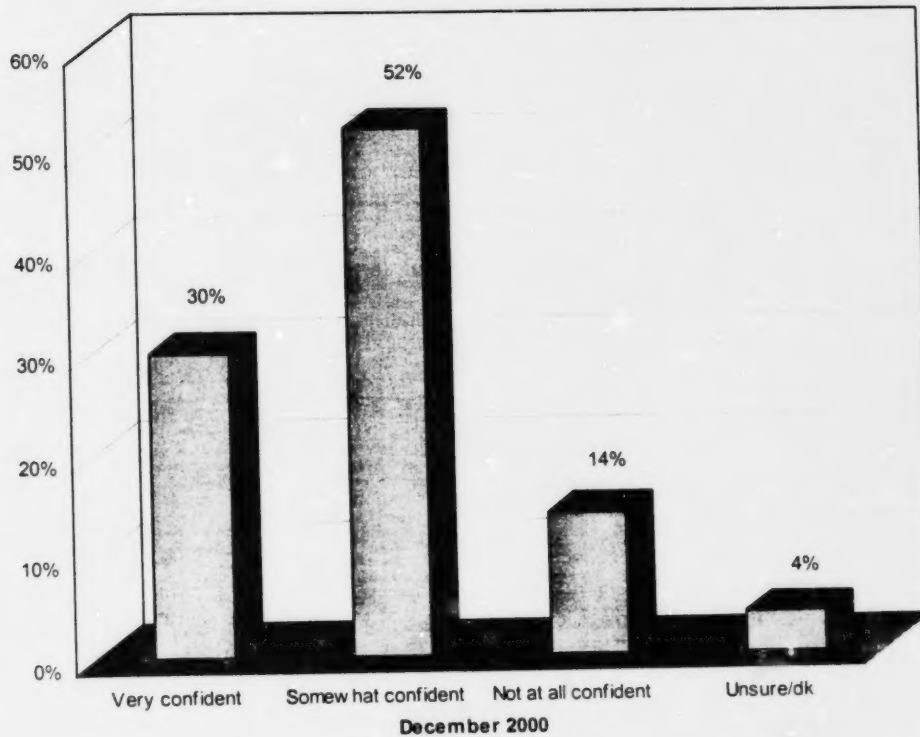
- Almost one half (47%) of Saskatchewan residents carry supplemental health insurance they have purchased to cover the cost of uninsured health care services.

Question 23. Do you or your family carry any supplemental health insurance which you have not purchased directly?



- The majority (58%) of residents carry supplemental health insurance which they have not purchased directly.

Question 24. How confident would you say you are in the ability of Saskatchewan's Emergency Health Services to respond to health care emergencies quickly and effectively?



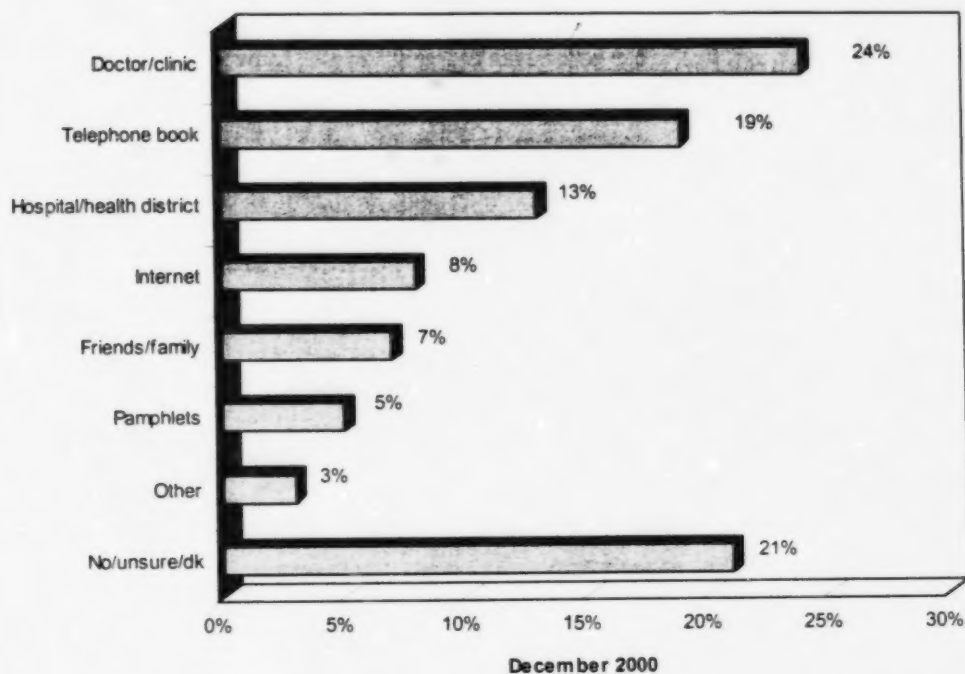
- The large majority (82%) of residents are confident in the ability of Saskatchewan's Emergency Health Services to respond to health care emergencies quickly and effectively.

Question 25. Using a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means not at all important and 10 means very important, how would you personally rate the importance of each potential change?

	Not important (1-4)	Somewhat important (5-7)	Very important (8-10)	DK
Training and equipping more "First Responders" – the community volunteers who provide first aid, while an ambulance is on the way to an emergency.	4%	21%	70%	5%
State of the art ambulances and emergency equipment.	4%	25%	67%	4%
Guaranteed minimum response times.	7%	26%	63%	4%
More advanced training for ambulance staff.	4%	31%	61%	4%
More ambulance sites operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week.	7%	30%	57%	6%
Charging rural and urban users the same fee for ambulance use.	13%	26%	55%	6%

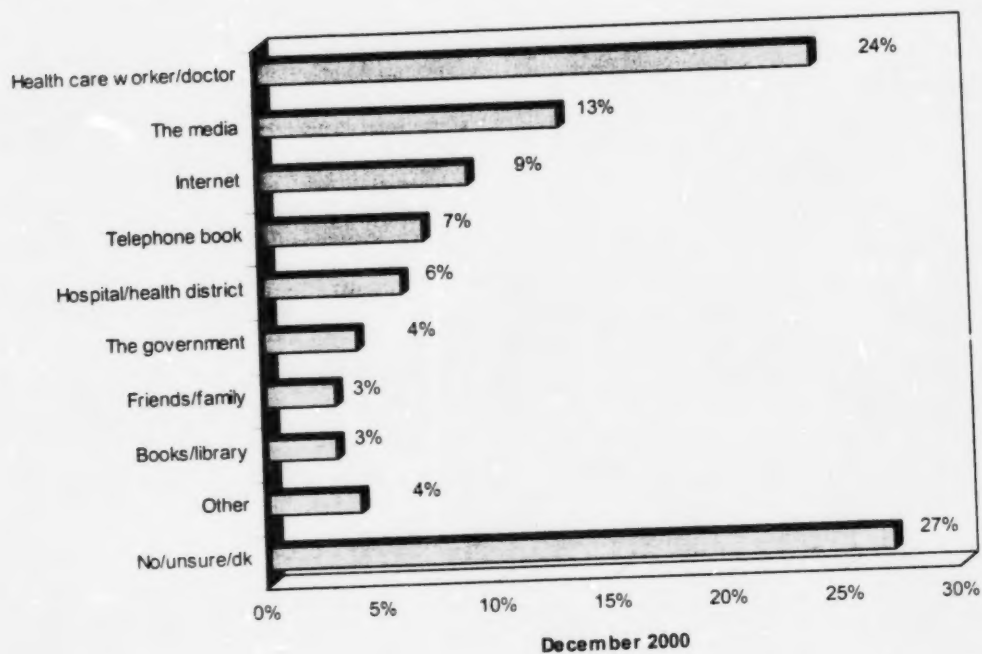
- Approximately two thirds of Saskatchewan residents believe that training and equipping more "First Responders" (70%) and state of the art ambulances and emergency equipment (67%) are very important potential changes.
- The majority of residents also think that minimal response times (63%), more advanced training for ambulance staff (61%), more ambulance sites operating 24 hours a day, seven day a week (57%) and charging rural and urban users the same fee for ambulance use (55%) are very important potential changes.

Question 26. When you seek general information about health care services, where do you look for that information?



- Approximately one quarter (24%) of Saskatchewan residents go to the doctor or clinic when they seek general information about health care services, 19% look in the telephone book for sources of information and 13% go to the hospital or their health district.

Question 27. When you seek general information about health issues, where do you look for that information?



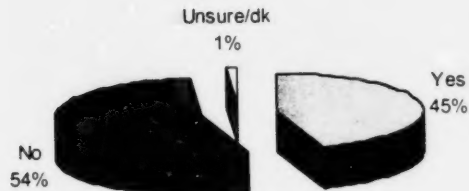
- Approximately 24% of Saskatchewan residents go to their health care worker or doctor when they seek general information about health services, 13% look for this information in the media and 9% look on the Internet.

Question 28. Do you have access to the Internet at your place of work?



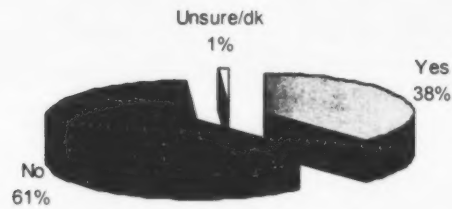
- Slightly less than one half (46%) of Saskatchewan residents have access to the Internet at their place of work.

Question 29. Do you have access to the Internet at your home?



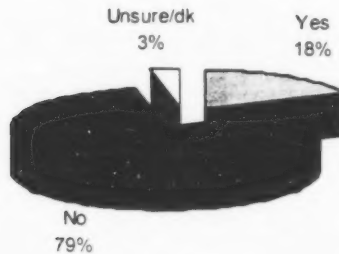
- Approximately 45% of Saskatchewan residents have access to the Internet at their home.

Question 30. Have you ever used the Internet to look up health information?



- More than one third (38%) of residents have used the Internet to look up health information.

Question 31. Saskatchewan Health recently announced that it has a new website which contains health information for the public. Do you recall hearing about this site?



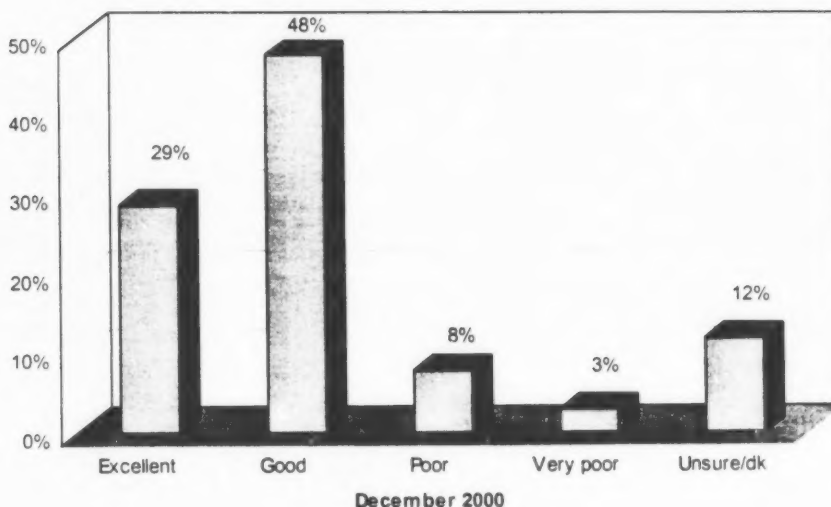
- Almost one in five (18%) Saskatchewan residents recall hearing about Saskatchewan Health's new website which contains health information for the public.

Question 32. Have you or any members of your immediate family received any health services from the health system in the past 12 months?



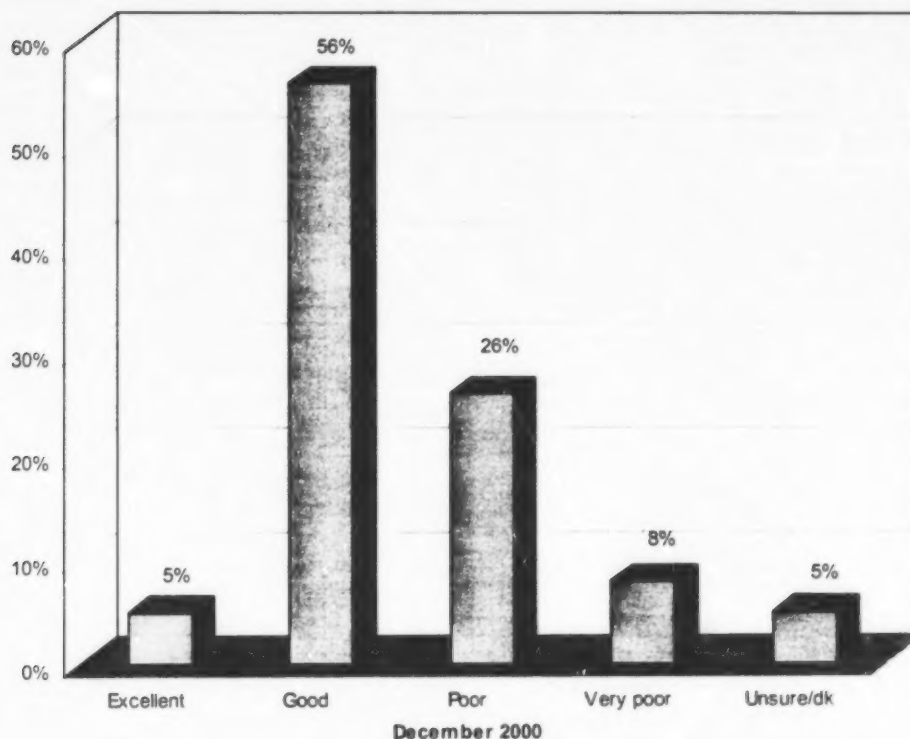
- Three quarters (75%) of Saskatchewan residents indicate they or a family member have received health care services in the past 12 months.

Question 33. How would you rate the quality of health services you or your family members have received in the past 12 months?



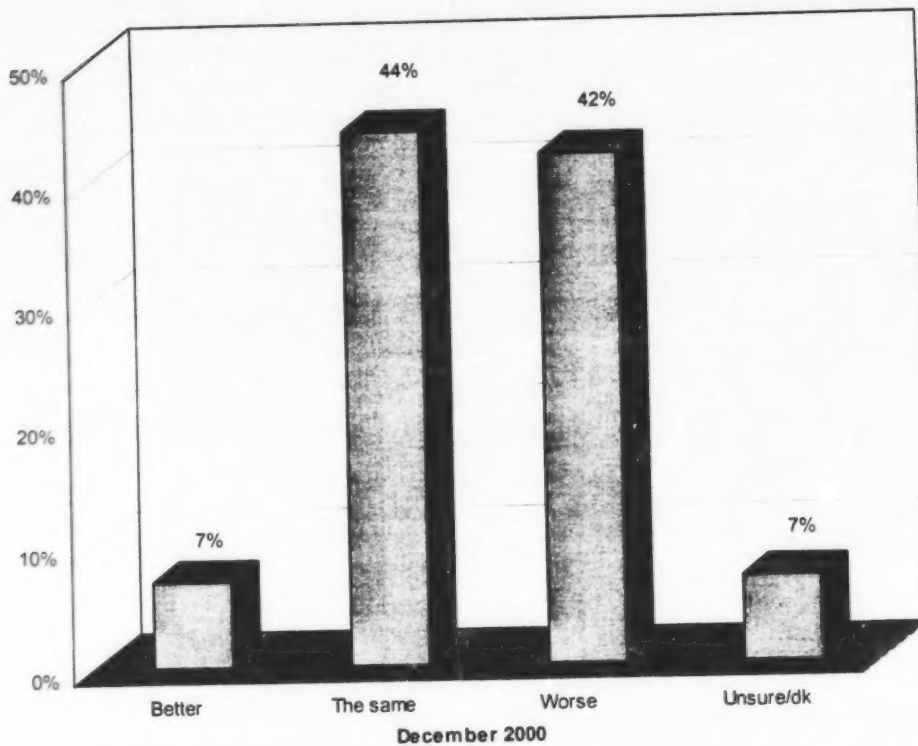
- More than three quarters of residents (77%) rate the quality of health services they or their family members have received in the past 12 months as either excellent or good.

Question 34. Overall, how would you rate the current level of health services provided in the province? Would you say they are excellent, good, poor or very poor?



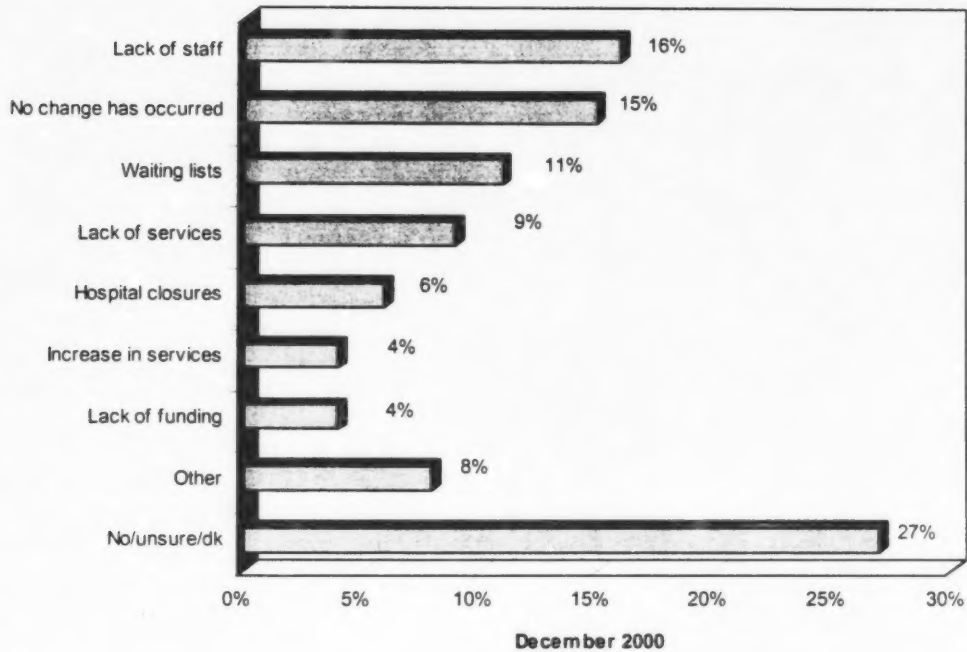
- The majority (61%) of Saskatchewan residents rate the current level of health services provided in the province as either excellent or good.

Question 35. Do you think the Saskatchewan health care system today is better, the same or worse than it was a year ago?



- The majority (51%) of residents think the Saskatchewan health care system today is better or the same as it was a year ago; 42% think it is worse.

Question 36. Can you give me the main reason why you feel that way?



- Approximately 16% of residents think there is a lack of staff in the Saskatchewan Health Care system, 15% think no change has occurred, 11% say waiting lists are too long and 9% indicate there is a lack of services.

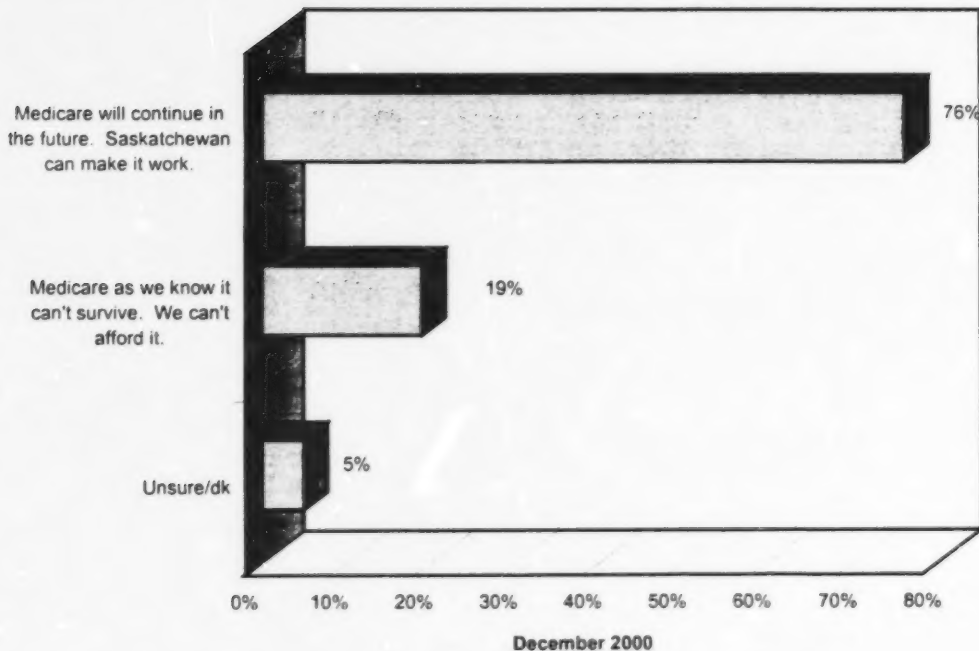
Question 37. I'm going to read you a number of tasks related to the delivery of health care services. As I list each task, please tell me how you personally rate the provincial government's performance on that task, using a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means very poor and 10 means excellent.

	Fair to poor (1-4)	Good (5-7)	Excellent (8-10)	DK
Providing health coverage for medically necessary services.	20%	43%	32%	5%
Providing preventative health services to identify and treat health problems before they become more serious.	29%	43%	23%	5%
Creating programs to help recruit and retain nurses.	45%	31%	18%	6%
Creating programs to help recruit and retain physicians.	47%	29%	16%	8%
Managing the health care system.	44%	37%	15%	4%
Reducing waiting times for surgery.	60%	19%	15%	6%

- Approximately three quarters (75%) of Saskatchewan residents rate the provincial government's performance on providing health coverage for medically necessary services as good to excellent. The majority (66%) rate providing preventative health services to identify and treat health problems before they become serious as good to excellent.
- Approximately one half of residents rate the provincial government's performance good to excellent in terms of creating programs to help recruit and retain nurses (49%), creating programs to help recruit and retain physicians (45%) and managing the health care system (52%).
- The majority of residents (60%) give the provincial government a fair to poor rating for reducing waiting times for surgery.

Question 38. Which of the following two statements is closest to your own point of view?

- 1) Medicare as we know it can't survive. It's time to admit that we can't afford publicly funded health care for everyone, or
- 2) Medicare will continue to work into the future. Saskatchewan has the ability to make it work.
- 3) Unsure/dk



- More than three quarters (76%) of Saskatchewan residents think Medicare will continue to work in the future.

Question 39. Are you, or any member of your immediate family, working in the health care sector?



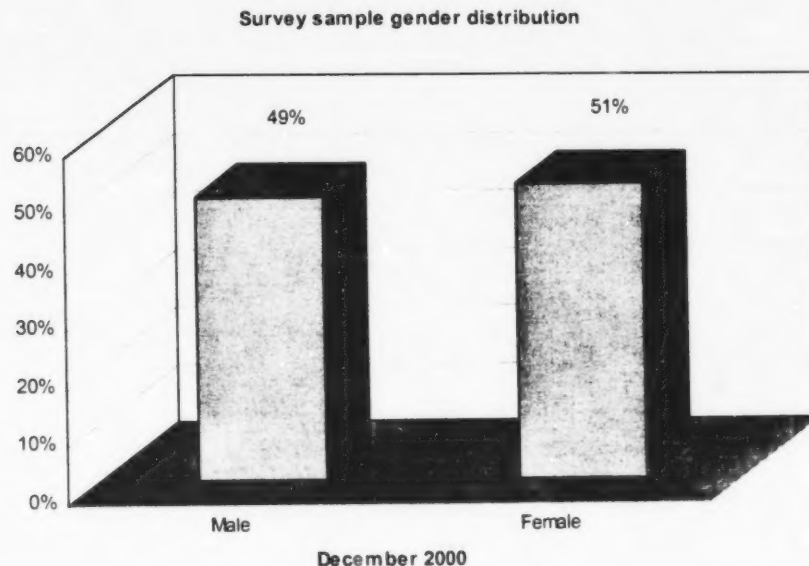
- Approximately 23% of Saskatchewan residents indicate they or an immediate family member work in the health care sector.

APPENDIX II

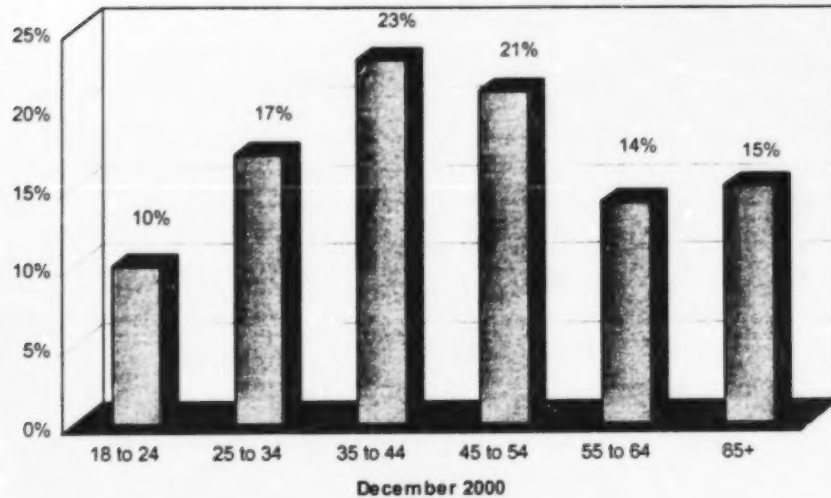
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

The omnibus public opinion sample frame is constructed to facilitate proportionate representation of various demographic characteristics evident within the province of Saskatchewan. This ensures that opinions of all the various types of residents in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report. The demographic distributions from the survey sample generally parallel the province's actual population distributions, as measured by Statistics Canada census data.

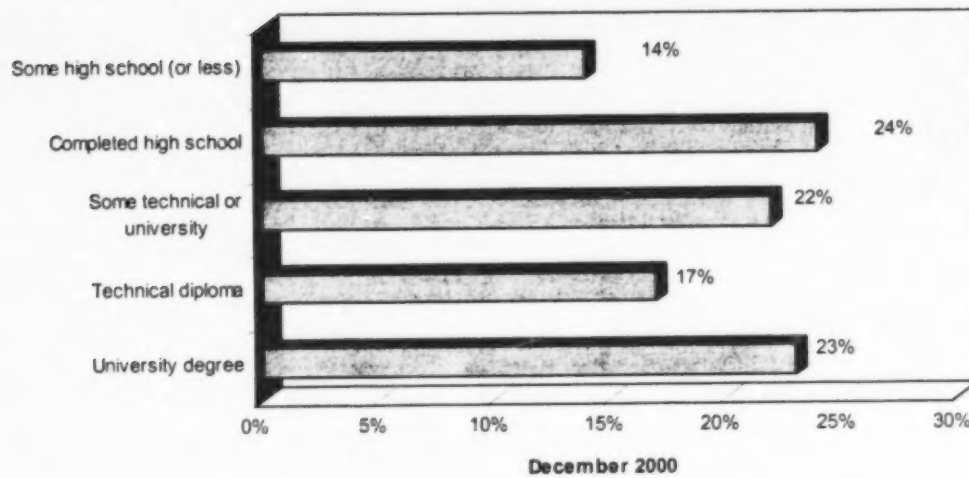
The omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error for the point estimates contained in this report of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.



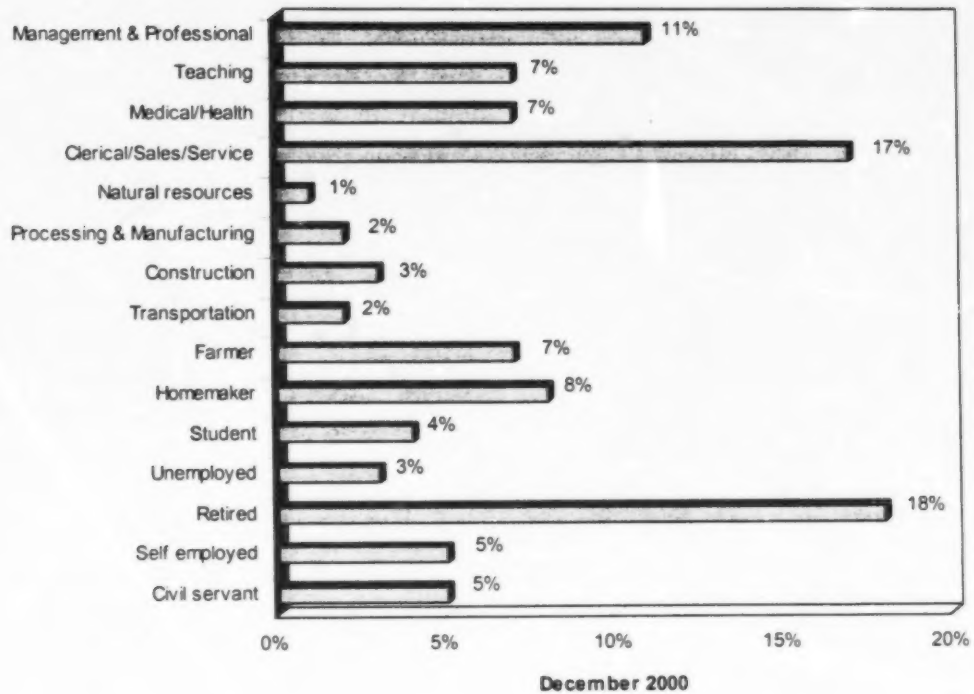
Survey sample age distribution



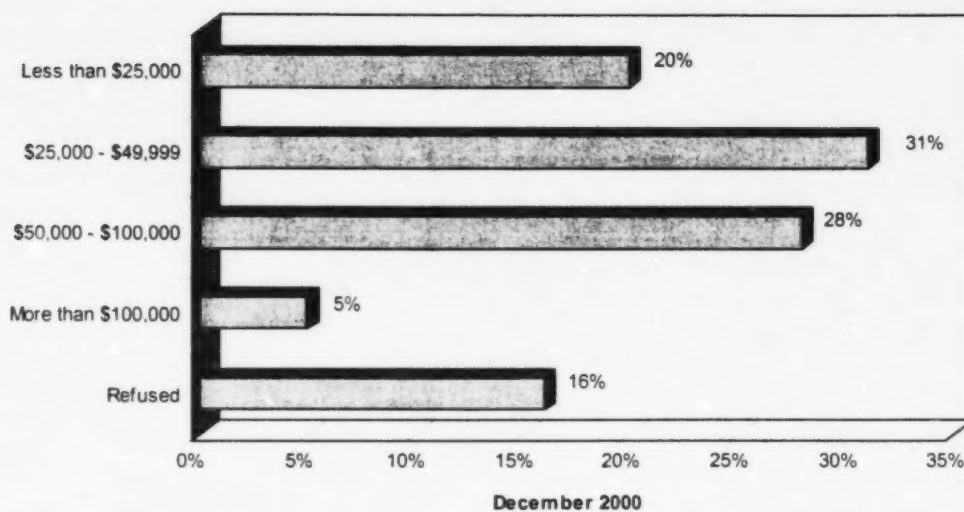
Survey sample education distribution



Survey sample occupation distribution



Survey sample income distribution



Survey sample regional distribution

